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CONTACT

JACK COETZEE
Managing Director
+27 83 452 2022
jack@quintessentialaviation.com

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Editor-in-Chief **Dirk Steenekamp**

Associate Editor **Jason Fleetwood**

Graphic Designer **Siphokazi Masele**

Fashion Editor **Lexie Robb**

Grooming Editor **Greg Forbes**

Gaming Editor **Andre Coetzer**

Tech Editor **Peter Wolff**

Illustrations **Toon53 Productions**

Motoring Editor **John Page**

Social and Digital Media Manager **Nelly Maduna**

Senior Photo Editor **Luba V Nel**

ADVERTISING SALES **pieter@dhsmedia.co.za**

for more information

PHONE: +27 10 006 0051
MAIL: PO Box 71450, Bryanston, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2021
ADDRESS: First Floor Block 6 Fourways Office Park, Cnr Roos Street & Fourways Boulevard, 2191
EMAIL: info@dhsmedia.co.za
WEB: www.playboymagsweden.com
FACEBOOK: facebook.com/PlayBSweden
INSTAGRAM: playboymag_sweden

PLAYBOY ENTERPRISES, INTERNATIONAL
Hugh M. Hefner, FOUNDER

U.S. PLAYBOY
Ben Kohn, Chief Executive Officer
Cooper Hefner, Chief Creative Officer
Michael Phillips, SVP, Digital Products
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Reena Patel, Chief Commercial Officer & Head of Operations
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Diego Patiño
This US Brooklyn-based illustrator's summary of himself may also serve as a description of his smart and sexy artwork: "a seemingly functional and uneven amalgam of adenine, guanine, cytosine, thymine and hopefully some other stuff." Patiño's provocative pulp style is on full display in Chuck Palahniuk's *Unlawful Entry*.



Zoe McConnell
McConnell got her big break shooting Rihanna for the cover of *Complex*. Since then she has turned her lens on Rita Ora, A$AP Rocky and a host of other luminaries. The shutterbug's starry music portfolio made her the perfect person to capture sexy and soulful Let's Play subject Jorja Smith, a fellow Brit whom McConnell deems "effortlessly cool".



Toni-Blaze
A stylist as well as the Editor-in-Chief of *Wonderland* magazine, Toni-Blaze grew up with a mother who encouraged self-expression and a grandmother who owned her own tailoring business in Nigeria. She uses her bold sartorial sensibility to outfit clients including Lupita Nyong'o, Mary J. Blige and Jorja Smith, whom she styled for the latest *Let's Play*.



Brian B Hayes
An internationally renowned photographer whose work is published worldwide. Brian is mostly known for his glamour style photography. With over 25 years of shooting gorgeous models Brian's work has graced the covers of top men's magazines worldwide. Brian also publishes a series of glamour calendars which are best sellers every year. You can find his work at BrianBHayes.com.



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WORLD *of* PLAYBOY

PAGING DR. QUINN

We at Playboy have adored Jane Seymour ever since we featured her in a Bond girl–themed pictorial back in 1973. Even so, we didn't know how our recent Playboy.com profile of the British bombshell, shot by Aaron Feaver, would resonate with readers — until amassed 1.1 billion media impressions and more than 26,000 likes on Seymour's Instagram. Contributor Rebecca Haithcoat had spent an afternoon with the actress, chatting about everything from Seymour's new sitcom, *Let's Get Physical*, to feeling sexier than ever at 67. The most memorable moment? Haithcoat recalls, "When her publicist popped in to tell her she needed to hurry and change for a cocktail party that night, Jane didn't hesitate to lead me into her boudoir. Perched on the edge of her bathroom counter, I weighed in on whether she was wearing too much make-up (nope) and if she could get away with 'ratty' hair (oh yes). 'It takes a village!' she'd called out at the shoot. It definitely was fun being part of Jane Seymour's village for an hour or two."





Pushing the Right Buttons

Nearly 800 Playmates have appeared in PLAYBOY since 1953; last year, Ines Rau made history as the first transgender woman to earn that distinction. The British LGBT Awards recognised the milestone by nominating Chief Creative Officer Cooper Hefner for one of its coveted trophies. Hefner, who will attend the ceremony in London this May, joins a list of nominees that includes Laverne Cox, Harry Styles and Demi Lovato.

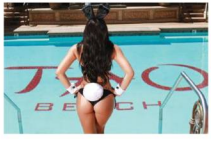


PLAYMATES

In February, our first-ever Creatives for climate change auction raised more than $20,000 for climatechange initiatives through the sale of several works of Playboy-inspired art. Artist Tristan Eaton, seen here with Playmates Kimberly Phillips and Stephanie Branton, was among the revellers at LA's OUE Skyspace. Simple Vodka and Golden Road Brewery kept things well lubricated.

Beach Bunnies

For the second year running, Playboy is making the hottest pool party in Vegas even hotter. Playboy Fridays at TAO Beach, the Venetian hotel's 1670m2 poolside playground, features Bunny servers, Playmate hosts and stellar DJs every Friday through Labor Day. Playboy staffers will be on site to host Discover & Be Discovered, our talent search for future muses.





Loving Lacey

Who's the fairest Bunny of them all? Pose this question to anyone at Playboy HQ and the response will surely be Pat Lacey, who recently capped off a five-decade run with the Rabbit. In 1965, Lacey was hired as a Bunny at the Playboy Club on the Sunset Strip. During a 28-episode stint on Playboy After Dark, she became friendly with fellow extra Barbi Benton. "Barbi and Hef came to the club one night and sat at my table," she recalls. "The next morning, my Bunny Mother called me and said, 'Hef wants you to be a Jet Bunny.' I said, 'All right!' " Lacey eventually became a Bunny Mother herself, and then co-ordinator of Playmate Promotions, a role she held through February, when she left to work on The Black Bunny Hop, her memoir of the civil rights era. We love you, Lacey!

LET'S PLAY

JORJA SMITH

On January 19, 2016, Jorja Smith made a decision that would alter her life forever. After years of posting cover songs on YouTube, the suburban British teen mustered the courage to upload her first original — a meditation on police brutality called "Blue Lights" — to SoundCloud And so began the ascent myself, so I just kind of let things happen," Smith says, reminiscing about the song's sudden appearance on London radio playlists. Her first EP, Project 11, squashed any murmurs of one-hit wonder, presenting a deft young talent who could swing between heartbreaker and heartbroken. At a time of near-ubiquitous synths and Auto-Tune, Smith favours the neo-soul of Sade and Alicia Keys; her smoky voice glides as naturally as the curves of her body. Having already earned a coveted Brit Award and collaborated with Drake and Kendrick Lamar, Smith is just getting started. This season will see both her 21st birthday and the release of her already buzzy debut album — which she faces with characteristic modesty. "I wasn't so confident growing up," she says. "I thought I wasn't thin enough or too tan. Now there are so many people watching me, I have to try to not care." —*Ariela Kozin*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
ZOE MCCONNELL




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BEER TODAY, *Gone Tomorrow*

Want an elegant easy-to-drink beverage that won't get you hammered? Check out how four establishments are elevating the beer cocktail

By **MACKENZIE FEGAN** *Photography by* **ERIC MEDSKER**

Beer purists, put down the pitchforks. Think of the concoctions featured here not as bastardisations of good beer but as flavourful, effervescent ways to lower the alcohol content so Fridays won't lead to remorseful Saturdays. "Beer cocktails get a bad rap," says Natasha David, proprietor of Nitecap in New York, USA, "but you're already doing something kind of naughty when you make a cocktail. I'm taking, say, whisky a distiller has perfected and adding a bunch of shit to something that's supposedly perfect as is. It's the same with beer." And much as a whiskey enthusiast might still enjoy an old-fashioned, a craft-beer lover might appreciate a well-made shandy — like the Double Take that David serves at Nitecap. You'd be wise to multiply her recipe by 10 and have a pitcher on hand. In David's words, "This is a daytime-drinking, out-on-the-porch-grilling, take-it-down-in-a-few-sips cocktail for sure." Hop to it.

BLACK BIRD

With its millennial-pink head, Guinness and blackcurrant is mostly an underage indulgence — until now. This version from LA's Hearth & Hound concentrates the Guinness rather than the fruit juice.

45ml Irish whisky
15ml Campari
30ml fresh pineapple juice
20ml fresh lime juice
1 dash Angostura bitters
20 Guinness reduction*

Combine all ingredients in a shaker with ice. Shake for 10 seconds. Strain; pour into rocks glass over ice.

*GUINNESS REDUCTION
Pour a 440ml can of Guinness into a saucepan and heat until boiling. Lower heat and simmer until reduced by two-thirds. Remove from heat. Stir in two thirds cup brown sugar until dissolved. Let cool.

ODE TO PICON

Picon is a bitter orange liqueur that traditionally accompanies beer in the east and north of France.

15ml Averna amaro
15ml Combier triple sec
8ml fresh lemon juice
8ml simple syrup
2 dashes Angostura orange bitters
180ml Kronenbourg

Combine all ingredients except beer in a highball glass. Add ice, top off with Kronenbourg, and garnish with an orange peel and a Luxardo cherry.

TOKYO BODEGA

Sunday in Brooklyn's riff on the sake bomb doesn't involve chopsticks or chanting, but the presentation is a stunner.

50ml junmai ginjo sake
15ml vanilla-bean simple syrup
1 bar spoon St.-Germain Elderflower liqueur
1 pony (210ml bottle) Miller High Life

Combine all ingredients except beer in a glass beaker. Fill a rice bowl with pebble ice, garnish with a lemon wheel and a lime wheel, and place beaker on top of ice. Open beer bottle, then quickly shove it into ice upside down. Pour some of beaker contents over ice and sip with a straw, adding more to bowl as desired.







DOUBLE TAKE ▶

Originally called a "shandygaff," which sounds like British slang for something filthy, the shandy is traditionally made with lager or ale and fizzy lemonade. Nitecap adds a few enchanting accents.

45ml Yola mezcal
15ml Cappelletti
15ml fresh lime juice
15ml fresh pineapple juice
15ml cane syrup (blend 2 parts cane sugar with 1 part water until granules dissolve)
60ml Belgian wheat beer

Combine all ingredients except beer in a shaker with ice. Shake for 10 seconds. Strain into an 250ml glass with no ice. Top with beer; garnish with a pineapple wedge.



From behind the bar at Nitecap, proprietor Natasha David serves up her signature Double Take.



SHANA-LEE KIM

Photography by **WALT WEISS** *Text by* **NELLY MADUNA**

Were you excited to shoot for Playboy?
Yes, yes, yes!!! Can I say that enough? I've loved Playboy and the beautiful women in it ever since I was a kid looking at my dad's secret stash of the magazines.

Tell us something surprising about you
I love oddities: taxidermy, insects, gaffs, historic artefact, art. I collect them and have them on display in my house. I know it's weird but I'm just so fascinated by them.

What would you consider to be your biggest challenge as a model so far?
Proving to people that it's hard work. There's a lot of effort that goes into a shoot that you don't see from just the picture. Like lighting, posing, lenses, angles, styling, etc.

What inspires you?
Art. Whether through dance, performance, make up, or fine art, it inspires me. Seeing how creative people can be is really inspiring.

What are some of your hobbies?
I like to bake and try new recipes when I have the time. Reading a good book, creating art, playing piano, or hiking with my dogs.

Turn-ons
Sensitivity; a man in tune with his emotions and can be honest about them.

Turn-offs
Selfishness. There is nothing worse than an insensitive and selfish person. Where's the love?!

Describe to us your perfect date
A day of exploring, a show, or a man sharing his personal favourite spot that no one else knows. Something intimate that reflects that person.

Which world capital would you like to visit, and why?
There are still so many I haven't seen! When I think capital, I think of Tokyo. That city just looks crazy and has so much going on. I love all the unique bars and shops there. Just the culture is so different!

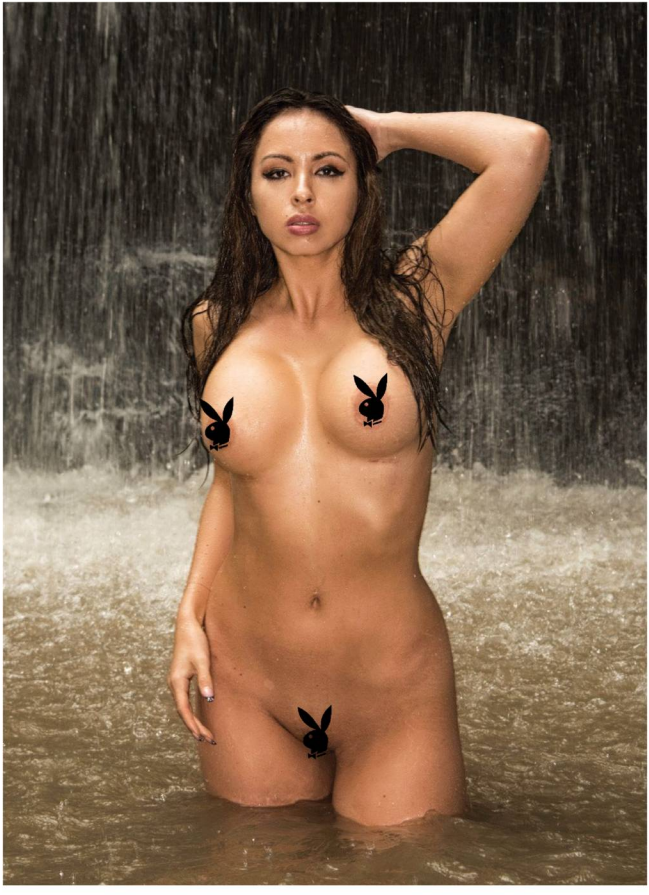
What is your favourite word in any language and what does it mean?
Fernweh. It's German and means a strong desire to travel and visit far off places. Literal translation is "far-sickness". It's the epitome of wanderlust, which I have. ;-)

Any last words you would like to share with the readers?
I'm so excited to be a part of Playboy! It's truly wonderful and quite an honour. I've admired all the beautiful women and people involved. Playboy has been such an inspiration!












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AUDI NINES 2018



The Audi Nines 2018 fused Slopestyle and Snowcross to create a revolutionary event!

Photography by **AUDI NINES/DISTILLERY**

It's a wrap: the winners in seven categories were crowned at the Audi Nines presented by Falken in Sölden, Austria. At the Public Contest Day, the male and female skiers and snowboarders showed thrilling performances on the new SlopeX course as well as Big Air and Quarterpipe. With the exciting set-up and perfect weather conditions drawing more than 3,000 spectators to Tiefenbach Glacier, the riders gave it their all and showed everyone they were eager to progress their sports.

The athletes loved the unique combination of speed and creative obstacles. But also, on a social level, the past six days at the Audi Nines brought Snow Cross and Slopestyle riders closer together. Mixing competitors from both disciplines created a whole new dynamic, as they brought their own interpretation of the SlopeX features and how to ride them. Closing a week full of exciting photo and film sessions, the Public Contest Day on the 14th of April 2018 will go down in history, not only for the unique approach of the organisers but also for the jaw-dropping skills the riders showed.

Highlights of the week: It's all about the loop!

The unique loop obstacle proved to be a highlight among the numerous innovative elements of the SlopeX course. For reigning Olympic Ski Cross Champion Brady Leman (CAN), a dream came true: "Since I was a kid, I always wanted to ski a loop!" The obstacle also presented an opportunity for Jesper Tjäder (SWE) to do the first ever switch loop on skis and Gigi Rüf (AUT) to show possibly the first ever carved snowboard loop. 2015 World Slopestyle Champion Fabian Bösch (SUI) created a buzz on social media with his ridiculous Triple Frontflip Superman over the Middle Jump, while riders and spectators alike loved the spectacular new "Hammer Drop Start".

The SlopeX finals: Pullin and Leman top the podium

The Public Contest Day began with the SlopeX qualification in the morning, then the fastest riders competed in eagerly awaited finals in the afternoon. For the snowboarders', 2-time World Snowboard Cross Champion Alex Pullin (AUS) prevailed over 2-time Olympic Champion Pierre Vaultier (FRA) and snowboard legend Terje Haakonsen (NOR). Among the skiers, Olympic Ski




NINES
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Cross Champion Brady Leman (CAN) won by a hair's breadth ahead of Alex Fiva (SUI) followed by Tim Hronek (GER). Additionally, Pierre Vaultier, Brady Leman, Christian Haller (SUI) and Jesper Tjäder (SWE) took the win in the new SlopeX team competition.

The Freestyle finals: An outstanding show

The freestyle Big Air competition took place on the Main Big Air feature offering three different take-offs. The finals were held as a 70-minute jam session with the two best tricks counting. On the skiers' side, trick wizard Andri Ragettli (SUI) convinced the judges with his Switch Triple Cork 1440 Safety and Triple Cork 1620 Double Safety, leaving James Woods (GBR, Triple Cork 1440 Safety & Switch Triple Cork 1440 Octo) and Ralph Welponer (ITA, Switch Double Cork 1440 Blunt & Triple Cork 1620 Safety) in second and third respectively.

For the snowboarders', local hero Clemens Millauer (AUT) took victory landing a Frontside Double Cork 1440 Tailgrab and a Switch Backside 1260 Melon. Second place went to Carlos Garcia Knight (NZL, Frontside Double Cork 1080 Nosegrab & Switch Double Cork 900 Tailgrab). Simon Gruber (ITA) took third performing a Frontside 1080 Indy and Backside 1080 Mute. Terje Haakonsen also took the quarter-pipe Best Trick Award with a classy and massive Backside Air.

Olympic Slopestyle Gold medallist Sarah Höfflin (SUI) dominated the female skiers' competition sticking a Switch left side Double Cork 900 Safety and Switch Double Cork 1080 Mute. Second place went to Jennie-Lee Burmansson (SWE), while Darian Stevens (USA) took third.

For the snowboard women, 2017 Aspen X Games winner Hailey Langland (USA) earned the win with a Cab 720 Nosegrab and one of the biggest Cab 1080s ever stuck by a snowboarder. Klaudia Medlova (SVK) took second while Silje Norendal (NOR) and Sina Candrian (SUI) tied for third.

The Public Contest Day was a perfect ending to an exciting week at the Audi Nines presented by Falken. The thrilling footage produced in Sölden during the previous days proves the event has taken these sports to a new level. Find out more on www.audinines.com












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VIKKI LENOLA

Photography by **DAVID FILLION** *Text by* **NELLY MADUNA**



Hobbies and interests
I'm a passionate animal rights activist and non-profit volunteer! Recently I even received a thank you card from PETA and it meant so much to me. As cliché as it sounds, I really want to make a difference.

My goals and career ambitions
Right now, I'm focusing on finishing my Environmental degree. I have a business diploma too. But I don't see a "real" job in my future any time soon! I plan to travel more for both research and modeling.

Who inspires me
I'm so inspired from people that have fought the status quo to achieve positive social change! Ghandi, Martin Luther King, David Suzuki, Gary Yourofsky, just to name a few.

My favourite quote
Work hard, stay humble and be kind.

Turn-ons
A manly man. Good communication. A good heart. Integrity is everything.

Turn-offs
Poor hygiene and sleaziness.

The perfect date
Doing something different or adventurous followed by some down time.

My girl crush
Jayden Nicole and Pam Anderson.

My favourite food
Vegan Eggplant Parmesan.

My biggest fear
Spiders!

One destination I'd love to visit
Egypt

You can follow more Vikki's adventures on Facebook and Instagram @vikkilenola














PLAYBOY'S
GUIDE TO
NASHVILLE
LIVE MUSIC!
LIBATIONS!
GREAT FOOD!
HONKY-TONKS!

With its mix of raucous music clubs and neon honky-tonks, Nashville feels like a small town with a lot going on — despite the fact that last year it passed Memphis as Tennessee's largest city. Combining the laid-back, neighbourly vibe you'd expect in the South with the excitement of a city buzzing with creative energy, Nashville is above all a town for music fans. "Anyone you see playing here is world-class," says Anthony Simpkins, a 26-year-old Nashville local who runs GemsOnVHS, a YouTube channel that showcases raw performances by local acts. "There's so much talent here it drives everybody to raise the bar." Nashvilleans couldn't be friendlier or more welcoming; the weather, on the other hand, can be unpredictable. But if storm clouds gather, there's bound to be something fun to do indoors. So how to do Nashville like a local? First, skip the famous strip of bars and clubs on Broadway. Yes, the nighttime neon makes for a great photo, but unless you enjoy drinking overpriced beer in overcrowded bars with underinformed tourists, you can do better. We asked Simpkins and other Nashville insiders — including Black Keys frontman Dan Auerbach — to share their tips on the best places to hear live music, grab a beer, go record shopping and more.

RYMAN AUDITORIUM

116 Fifth Avenue North. It's appropriate that this venue is a former house of worship, because these days it's nothing short of a cathedral to country music. The auditorium housed the Grand Ole Opry show for three decades, and Hank Williams got his start here. Today it's a National Historic Landmark, and everyone who's anyone, from Johnny Cash to the Avett Brothers, has graced its hardwood stage. "You're standing where these artists stood," says Simpkins. "The place is beautiful, like an old Civil War theatre, and you get a feeling like, wow, you're sharing the space with ghosts."

GRUHN GUITARS

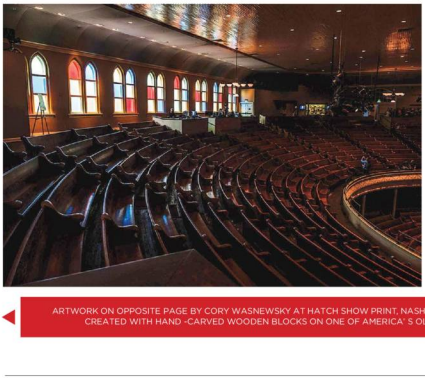
2120 Eighth Avenue South. You'd be hard-pressed to return home with a better Nashville souvenir than a fretted beauty. Gruhn offers a mix of new and used guitars alongside a world-class collection of vintage instruments. The three-floor emporium employs veteran musicians and some of the best guitar doctors in the world, and its stringed inventory — ukes, banjos, mandolins and more — will impress seasoned players and novices alike.

ROLF AND DAUGHTERS

700 Taylor Street. Take a trip to the teeming Germantown neighbourhood for an upscale Tennessee farm-to-table spin on Italian. The menu is innovative, fresh and ever-changing, highlighting the best of what's available in the area — including aged lamb racks from nearby Bear Creek Farm. In 2013 Bon Appétit called it one of "the best new restaurants in America." Minus the "new," the praise is still apt. Jaan Cohan, a touring guitarist, loves how the restaurant represents local heritage. "They put a Southern twist on it, whether it's the type of meat they use, like local quail or duck, or using certain spices found only in the South."

COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

222 Fifth Avenue South. Rare is the museum that's bona fide fun, but this place is a clear exception — and by no means do you have to be a country fan to enjoy it. General admission starts at $26, but it's worth it to add on the extras, such as a tour of RCA Studio B or the famous press at Hatch Show Print. On May 25 the museum unveils a new exhibit called Outlaws & Armadillos: Country's Roaring '70s.



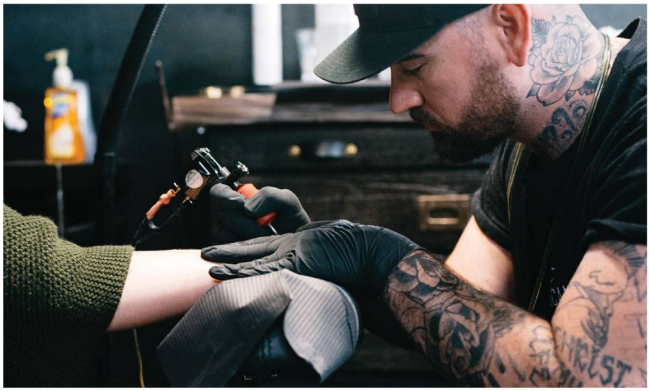
HONKYTONK TUESDAY NIGHTS AT AMERICAN LEGION POST 82

3204 Gallatin Pike. A relatively new addition to the local must-do list, Honky-Tonk Tuesday Nights are already a classic. Every Tuesday at eight, old vets, Nashville scene makers and aspiring musicians gather at the American Legion to drink, hear live music and do the two-step in an atmosphere that can only be described as one of a kind. (The Valentine's Day party felt like a hybrid Blue Velvet–Dazed and Confused–Tender Mercies scene.)

THE STATION INN

402 12th Avenue South. Situated down in the Gulch — the beating heart of Nashville — the Station Inn is absolutely >>

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Getting inked at Slumerican Made.

the place to hear true bluegrass. Serving bar snacks and beer, it's one of the last venues in the world that's preserving the music of that old, weird America. Acts you might catch in late spring include Danny Paisley and the Southern Grass, Junior Sisk and Ramblers Choice, and Caitlin Canty. Sunday nights at the Station Inn are dedicated to bluegrass jam sessions — and they're free.

MCKAY BOOKS

636 Old Hickory Boulevard. A quirky catchall come to life, McKay's is an enormous warehouse full of previously loved items at great prices — a discount store packed with treasures you didn't know you wanted. (Where else can you find a cowbell for six bucks?) Used vinyl starts as low as 25 cents, and customers can turn in their old media for store credit. "If you're a nerd who likes records, books, CDs or games, it's paradise," says Simpkins. "It's like if eBay was a place."

EDGEFIELD SPORTS BAR & GRILL

921 Woodland Street. A local haunt (with some serious dive-bar grit) for young musicians, Edgefield is cheap and welcoming and doesn't try too hard. Locals say it's the gathering place of musicians who lead double lives in the service industry. One touring guitarist perfectly characterised the patrons: "They're nine-to-five folks: nine PM to five AM."

ARNOLD'S COUNTRY KITCHEN

605 Eighth Avenue South. Slide your tray down the counter of this steamtable cafeteria and pick your home-cooked protein and trio of sides. "It's a meat-and-three that's also a James Beard Award–winning restaurant," says Tom Osborn, general manager of Easy Eye Sound. "You'll go there and get a roast beef you had six years ago and it tastes exactly the same. It's a unique Nashville thing that they do better than anybody." In business for more than three decades, the mom-and-pop establishment offers classic Southern fare such as fried chicken, fried catfish and fried green tomatoes — plus plenty of lighter options. At less than 11 bucks for a heaping plate, it's the best deal in town.

SLUMERICAN MADE

1314 Jo Johnston Avenue. Multitask at the new flagship store for Southern rapper Yelawolf's lifestyle brand and music label. You can buy clothes, get a fade at the barbershop and cop a tattoo all under one roof.

LIVE TRUE VINTAGE

103 22nd Street, Old Hickory. This local favourite boasts a wide but carefully selected variety for all your vintage-clothing and secondhand-vinyl needs. Owner Tammy Pope digs deep for the items that grace her racks and shelves. From old concert tees and loud Hawaiian prints to kitschy whisky decanters and Southern memorabilia, Live True Vintage is where you'll find your next wardrobe gem or apartment objet d'art.

THE GERMANTOWN INN

1218 6th Avenue North. Opened in 2016, this cosy bed-and-breakfast sits in a building from the 19th century — the perfect mix of antique charm and modern amenities. With just six rooms, each named after an American president, it's an intimate setting that also features a private courtyard and rooftop. And it's all about location: A stay here puts you right next to some of the city's best restaurants and shopping, and it's a short drive downtown.



Rethinking the FEMALE ORGASM

Guys, it's time to get smart about getting her off. Here, the authors of vagina bible The Wonder Down Under offer five tips that will ensure mutual O-faces every time

By **ELLEN STØKKEN DAHL & NINA BROCHMANN**

Imagine going out with an attractive woman. An unmistakable sexual tension builds throughout the cocktails, dinner and sparkling repartee. By the time you reach your apartment, you're both so eager that you skip the foreplay and go straight to the sex. Afterward she seems pleased, even satisfied, but know this: No matter how long you kept at it, it's highly unlikely that the old in-out made her come.

Relax. There's nothing wrong with your manhood; you're just spending too much energy in the wrong place. For hetero couples, intercourse is commonly seen as the main act, but outside of bad porn, most women don't achieve orgasms from vaginal penetration alone. In reality, only about one in four women works this way.

A woman's ability to come during intercourse is a matter of chance: If the outer part of her clitoris is closer to the vaginal opening, a woman is more likely to orgasm from sex alone. But regardless of this anatomical lottery, you have the power to take a woman to Pleasure Town as many times as she wants. Read on



Set the Stage

Most men experience the spontaneous desire for sex, but only about 15 percent of women do. The rest have responsive desire, which means they're dependent on a sexual or romantic situation to feel ready for sex. These women need mental foreplay, so put away your smartphone, clear your schedule and create the right atmosphere before making your move.

Focus on the Foreplay

The clitoris is often perceived as simply a cute little knob at the top of the vestibulum, the area between a woman's genital lips. In reality, the clitoris — not the vagina — is a woman's main sexual organ. The glans clitoridis is equivalent to the glans penis (the tip), and most women need direct stimulation of their glans to orgasm. This means you should forget the vagina for a moment and touch and lick the clit. If more hetero couples took foreplay more seriously, the 75 percent of women who don't easily come from penetration could enjoy mutually climactic sex.

Slow Your Roll

The glans clitoridis has around 8,000 nerve endings, the same as the glans penis — but because the clitoral head is so much smaller, the concentration of nerve endings is higher. This makes the clitoris more sensitive than anything on the male body, and it means that the veil separating pleasure from discomfort is really thin. So be gentle. Not all pressure is good pressure; if you stimulate the clitoris too eagerly, the nerve endings will become overwhelmed and simply stop relaying messages to the brain. At that point, the only thing that helps is to take a break. To avoid hitting the mute button, try indirect stimulation, play with different pressures and use lubricant to minimise friction.

Let the CAT In

Missionary fans rejoice: With the coital alignment technique, or CAT, you might just get your partner to orgasm via penetration. The CAT is the sexual position with the highest orgasm rate for women during intercourse alone. The idea is to stimulate the clitoris with your pelvic bone. Your pelvises need to be close together, and the movement is more about rubbing or sliding against each other than thrusting: back and forth instead of in and out. The position takes study and practise, but trust us — it's time well spent.

Talk Dirty

Aside from anatomical savvy, the surest path to a great sex life is communication. Talk about sex with your partner, make sure to listen and relay what you want. Studies show that couples who speak openly about their desires are more content with their sex lives and their relationships in general. And couples who communicate have more sex too. ■

SIGNIFICA, INSIGNIFICA, STATS AND FACTS

BROWN DATA

ANOTHER QUALITY FEATURE

ILLUSTRATED BY TIMEA BOROS

Krieg der Sterne

FOUND A MISTAKE GIVE I AHMINUT

5/4/2005: date of the inaugural Star Wars Day following a German TV channel's incorrect translation of the famous *Star Wars* quote "May the force be with you" to "WE ARE WITH YOU ON MAY 4TH"

CINCO Sales

The highest-selling categories of Cinco de Mayo food fare, in millions:

- $88: tortilla chips
- $29: avocados
- $22: salsa
- $12: corn
- $8: limes

HERE COMES The SUN

24: number of hours of sunlight at the North Pole on the summer solstice, which falls on June 21 this year

LEST we FORGET

102: members of the 115th U.S. Congress who have served in the military (that's 18.8%)

42,000,000+: number of U.S. veterans who have served during wartime

$139,000,000+: estimated value of items lost on Memorial Day weekend

155,000: AVERAGE NUMBER OF GUESTS ATTENDING "THE MOST EXCITING TWO MINUTES IN SPORTS"

DERBY DATA

1: number of sitting presidents who have attended the Kentucky Derby (Richard Nixon in 1969)

120,000+: number of mint juleps served at Churchill Downs over Kentucky Oaks and Kentucky Derby weekend

MOM MATH

MILLIONS — TURN ON/OFF

- 85.4: estimated number of moms in the United States
- 9.9: number of single moms in the United States in 2016 (UP FROM 7.7 MILLION IN 1980)
- 5.0: number of married stay-at-home moms in the United States in 2016

DAD DATA

72.2 MILLION: estimated number of fathers in the United States

2 MILLION: number of single fathers in 2016

209,000: number of married stay-at-home dads in 2016

The SOUNDS OF SILENCE

BLAH BLAH BLAH

Artists who have asked Donald Trump not to play their music at political events:

ADELE, QUEEN, PAUL RODGERS, R.E.M., THE ROLLING STONES, TWISTED SISTER, STEVEN TYLER, NEIL YOUNG, GEORGE HARRISON (via his estate), **LUCIANO PAVAROTTI** (via his widow)

Compelling MISSPELLINGS

Most commonly misspelled Pornhub searches in the 10 most populous U.S. states:

California, New York, Georgia: **"PORN" (PORN)**
Texas: **"LESSIAN" (LESBIAN)**
Florida: **"WBONY" (EBONY)**
Pennsylvania, Illinois: **"HENTI" (HENTAI)**
Ohio: **"MIFL" (MILF)**
North Carolina: **"AMATURR" (AMATEUR)**
Michigan: **"CARTON" (CARTOON)**

Jerry and ARRIE

SEINFELD ended 20 years ago this May. **SEX AND THE CITY** debuted 20 years ago this June.

STATE OF THE DATE

4X: increase in 18- to 24-year-olds who now report using mobile dating apps since 2013

16: percentage of Americans who agree with the statement "People who use online dating sites are desperate"

Playboy Advisor

Sex columnist Anna del Gaizo on a very special species: sexually aggressive women. Plus, the new rules of pursuing sex in the era of #MeToo and a primer on at-home mixology



Q: *I recently found myself unable to get hard after my girlfriend forcefully grabbed my crotch in the car and tried to go down on me. I hate it when women are overly sexually aggressive, because I enjoy the hunt — that is, I like making the first move to initiate sex. Does my boredom with women who are fearlessly forward make me a bad "male feminist," a douchebag or just your typical guy?*

Antiquated notions about human biology would have you believe that only men hunt and only women nest. Modern iterations of feminism say women should make the first move — or, at the very least, not be shy about doing so. The truth is somewhere in the middle, which means quality sex, from foreplay to finish, is about finding the right personality dynamics. That means gender shouldn't determine which of us prefers to hunt and which prefers being hunted. Now, to address your question, how sexually aggressive are we talking? Is she leaning in for a kiss and grabbing your crotch, or grabbing your crotch without warning? Some dudes like an aggressive girl; perhaps her exes were some of those dudes. Others don't. Some girls get off on a guy calling them a dirty slut. Others don't. And it's all perfectly fine! If you're not hurting her (unless she explicitly wants you to, of course) and both parties are pleased with the sex, the mechanics behind your relationship is no one else's business. That's why I question why you think your sexual preferences have anything to do with feminism or masculinity. I suggest losing the identity politics and finding a woman who prefers to be submissive, because you're obviously a dom. And you should own that. There's nothing wrong with liking what you like and, more important, embracing what you like. That's sexy. By the way, male feminism is a troublesome term. Feminism is defined as equality of the sexes, despite the root of the word itself, so tacking on male nullifies it. The only bad male feminist is the kind of guy who wears a T-shirt emblazoned with MALE FEMINIST and goes around punching women in the vagina. If a man enjoys getting pegged by a dominatrix who's dressed like a lumberjack, does that make him a good male feminist? Nope. It means he has specific proclivities. So while you may be a little naive — by "typical guy" I guess you mean you like watching sports, drinking beer and hitting your local Hooters every once in a while — you're not necessarily a bad feminist.

Q: ***What's a go-to cocktail I can master at home that almost any woman would not just be impressed by but actually drink?***

A: There's nothing sadder than having people over and being unable to offer them a proper drink because your fridge is stocked solely with crusty lo mein leftovers and a single bottle of light beer. A magnum of Dom, a bottle each of a mid-priced red and white and a fully stocked bar complete with dry vermouth, bitters and all the accoutrements will make your home a prime after-hours spot — but for a beginner, you need just a few items to impress. Keep good-quality bottles of tequila, vodka and whisky, along with bottles of club soda and a few limes, and you're set. (Remember to refill that old ice tray.) Make a balanced pour, and you're golden. If she refuses tequila because she drinks mezcal now, she may not deserve your hospitality.

Q: ***I once read that there was an over-the-counter drug that greatly increases the amount of sperm a man produces. Is there any truth to the idea that a guy can increase his load?***

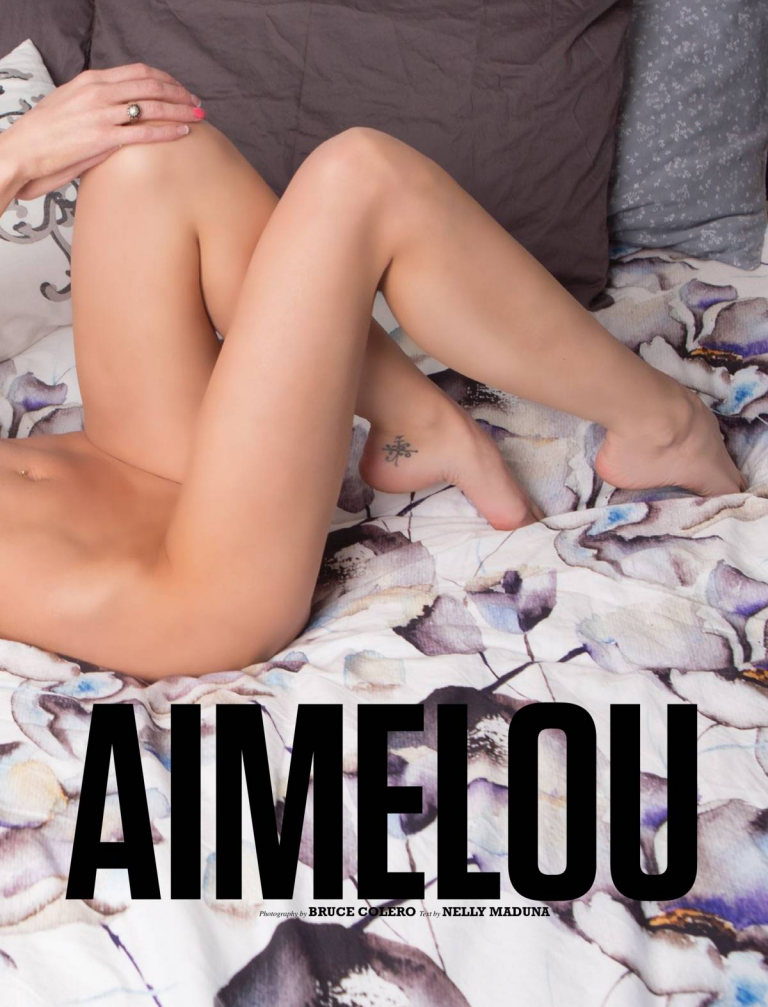
A: There are many ways to increase the volume of your ejaculate, but they don't include over-the-counter supplements. For one, there's no published clinical research proving OTC drugs actually work in this arena. If you really want to make your money shot more climactic, let your body, not your wallet, do the work. Pause your masturbation routine for a few days. The amount of semen you produce is directly proportional to the level of liquid you ingest. Ejaculate is water-based, so start slamming as much water as possible, and lay off the booze, which dehydrates you. Even worse, alcohol lowers your sperm count and decreases its quality — and why shouldn't quality be just as important as quantity here? You should also avoid hot tubs, saunas, steam rooms, heated car seats, tight underwear and sitting with your legs crossed, all of which can reduce the amount of cum you produce. Testicles are situated outside your body because sperm needs to be at a lower temperature than your body (which is 37°C) to function and flourish. Finally, don't compare your load with those of porn stars. Some men simply produce more semen than others, and those are often the men you see in porn. Which brings me to my question for you: Why do you want to increase your sperm load? If it's because you want to accomplish a porn-esque money shot, you better make sure your lover is on board with facials first.

Q: ***It used to be a guy could invite a woman back to his place after a date for a nightcap or coffee or to watch a movie if he wanted to, you know, extend the evening. But in a time of #MeToo, can you ask a woman over without being accused of acting inappropriately?***

A: You have reason to be apprehensive. Everyone knows asking someone to your place is code for sex, so you're better off being forthright. When you're just getting to know a woman, you have no idea what makes her tick, what triggers her or what she considers an affront to her self-respect. There's a fine line between creepy and cute, and appropriateness is subjective. (Aziz Ansari's #MeToo moment is proof of this.) If you have to ask, "Is this inappropriate?" it probably is. Then again, I'd like to meet a woman who would accuse you of being out of line for asking her to hang out in your apartment — though I do know a few who might call you a dork. Forget the ruse of a cup of coffee or watching an episode of Queer Eye on Netflix, especially at 11PM on a weeknight. It's not as coy as you think. Let things flow naturally, gauge your dynamic and, most vitally, listen to what she has to say. Make sure you have her consent; the whole "Her words said no, but her body said yes" argument will definitely win you a #MeToo moment. After all, when two adults want to have sex with each other, they don't need to pretend otherwise.

Q: ***I caught my boyfriend using a sterilising cleaning product he found under my sink on his penis after sex. (I repeat: my boyfriend, not a one-night stand.) Does this mean he finds me disgusting?***

A: This is a leap beyond the postcoital shower, which can also be offensive or at the very least a bummer. To start, you aren't disgusting. Most likely he's grappling with germophobia, paranoia or both. You should start by assessing his reaction to your reaction (which I imagine was shock and horror). Did he act like he was doing something as normal as taking a post-sex piss? Was he embarrassed because he knows dousing his manhood in a substance used to break down oven grease is a weird thing to do? This situation is more about him than you, so do the mature thing: Tell him he probably already has herpes. Just kidding! Calmly tell him you're concerned and perhaps a little bothered by it. If he gets defensive or freaks out, show him the door or tell him to get help. Or both. Only you should determine what your dealbreakers are, though his behaviour to me signifies some deep-rooted issues with intercourse. Either that, or he suspects you're promiscuous — and unsafe — and he'd rather risk a violent allergic reaction than the sexually transmitted infection he fears you may have given him. As a responsible person, all you can do is ask him to be honest about his feelings — and to respect yours. Questions? E-mail advisor@playboy.com.



AIMELOU

Photography by **BRUCE COLERO** *Text by* **NELLY MADUNA**



Hello, my name is Aimelou. I'm born in Winnipeg Manitoba.

My hobbies and interests
I love reading, poetry, art, guns, hiking, rock climbing, music, traveling and hanging out with friends and family.

My goals and career ambitions
My career goals are to eventually design my own clothing line.

Who inspires me
I'm inspired by Robert Frost and all his amazing writing.

My favourite quote
Trust is like paper once it's crumpled, it will never be the same.

Turn-ons
What turns me on the most is a man's personality, his humour, and how he dresses.

Turn-offs
I'm turned off by rude, self-absorbed men that lie and cheat.

The perfect date
A perfect date to me would be... dinner on the beach around sunset, with candles everywhere, roses and rose peddles all around. Then cuddling in a blanket watching the stars, listening to the waves, music and making love.

My girl crush
One of my girl crushes would have to be Paris Hilton. She's too cute and I think we would get along good because we are both Aquarius.

Favourite food
My favourite food is healthy foods. Salad, BBQ chicken and potatoes.

Biggest fear
My biggest fear is dying without accomplishing my dreams.

One destination I'd love to visit
I'd love to travel to Venice, Italy and Rome. Maybe try backpacking around Europe too.

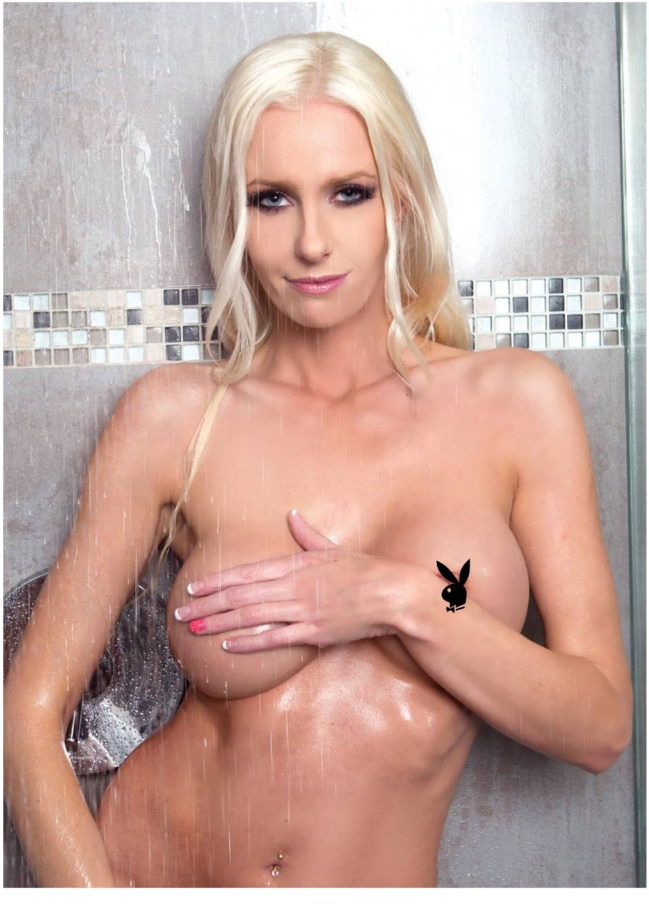
I'm not embarrassed to say
That I'm actually kind of shy.

You can follow more of my adventures on Instagram zamy_wenslou and Facebook Zamy Wens (Aimelou)










Bra: 32 DD
Waist: 66cm
Hips: 84cm
Height: 1.73m
Weight: 50kg
Eye Colour: Blue



The Accidental POP STARS

by **AARON CARNES** *Photography by* **JOSHUA ALLEN HARRIS**

Portland stalwarts Portugal. The Man march into their first year as Grammy-winning, chart-topping stars. Listen in on one of the most unusual success stories in pop

Two bearded guys in jeans and old T-shirts come down the backstage stairs at the McDonald Theatre in Eugene, Oregon, USA, carrying a hot-dog roller — one of those gleaming, grease-lined contraptions that spin ad infinitum in convenience stores. As they set it up I watch them from the nearby couch I'm sharing with two of the founding members of Portugal. The Man, a band whose eccentric psych-pop has allowed it to float just underneath the mainstream for more than a decade. Last year the group surprised everyone, including themselves, with the massive success of "Feel It Still," an infectious Motown-inspired jam that has garnered praise from the likes of former president Barack Obama, who included it on his "favourite songs of 2017" playlist.

Just a few days earlier, the song had landed the Portland-based group a Grammy for best pop duo/group performance. Now, at the kickoff of their first tour of 2018, they giddily look on as roadies set up their brand-new appliance. If all goes according to plan, it will traverse the globe with them, heating dogs for the band, the crew, the opening acts and whoever else happens to be hanging around.

"Treat yourself," bassist Zach Carothers says. Singer-guitarist John Gourley, seated on the couch with Carothers and me, has been quiet; he strikes me as shy. But once he gets started, he has a lot to say.

"You're really not going to get a good dog off that for a couple weeks," he says as a crew member loads the rollers. "Got to get a few layers on it first." Gourley has an accent I can't place. Carothers sounds like he grew up in southern California. Of the other band members, second guitarist Eric Howk is in the touring van. (He's been paralysed from the sternum down since 2007 from a construction-site accident.) Drummer Jason Sechrist is hanging out somewhere, as are vocalist Zoe Manville, Gourley's partner and the mother of their child, and keyboardist Kyle O'Quin. Later, O'Quin tells me the band members used to satisfy their tour cravings by cooking up "bus dogs" — franks boiled in a coffeepot.

Gourley and Carothers, now 36 and 37 respectively, grew up in remote parts of Alaska. Gourley's family moved around, usually relocating every two years to a different secluded part of the state. ("My friends were dogs," he says.) Carothers lived outside Wasilla, the tiny city most people associate with the Palin family. The two future bandmates met as teens when Gourley's family moved there; they started playing together seriously around 16 years ago, after relocating to Portland.

It makes a certain sense that they would splurge on a hot-dog roller: Facing the kind of fame few bands ever glimpse, they make a point of clinging to the rustic oddities of their past rather than trading up to rock-star cliché. Their clothes suggest broke musicians: Gourley is dressed for the snow — blue winter vest, fluffy Portland beanie — while Carothers wears black sweatpants and a varsity jacket with COACH CAROTHERS emblazoned on it. When I ask about the Grammy win, they both shake their heads.

"Somebody f#cked up," Gourley says. Until the moment they walked onstage, he hadn't expected to win. "There's no way you're going to beat Justin Bieber and 'Despacito.' There's no way you're going to beat Coldplay and Chainsmokers. There's no way you're going to beat Imagine Dragons."

But they did, and the group's acceptance speech, which they drafted "just in case," grabbed headlines. Consequence of Sound wrote that they'd "made a mockery" of the win and pointed out that Gourley appeared to wipe himself, onstage, with the trophy. (Gourley disputes this interpretation.) Carothers delivered the speech, wrapping up with a warm "Hail Satan."

"If we win a Grammy as a pop duo or group, a genre that we had no business being in up until last year, we're going to give it up to Satan because that's the only way idiots like this are going to get on that stage," Gourley tells me — kind of laughing, kind of serious. "He's got to have something to do with it."

Many publications failed to notice the thrust of the speech: Carothers paid a nervous, heartfelt tribute to Alaska. He said their heroes were dog mushers and dedicated the award to the kids in the villages ("Shishmaref, Barrow, Bethel") and the state's indigenous people.

"That's who that award should be dedicated to," Gourley says back in the dressing room, "people that don't have a voice out there." He's suddenly serious, his own voice louder than it had been all afternoon. "It was a really proud moment for us to win a Grammy, coming from all that. It was just sad to see the next day that you're not going to mention any of it."

That wasn't the first time the press misrepresented Portugal. The Man as pretentious, arrogant or out to stir up controversy. I wonder what those writers would think if they saw the band members backstage, feeding the venue staff with their new hot-dog roller.

"Legit, it's awesome for tour," Carothers says, bunning a dog. "We're cooking hot dogs in the dressing room. Look at us. We've changed, man." The last statement strikes me as both accurate and ironic: The trappings of success >>

Opposite page: Portugal. The Man members (from left) Zach Carothers, John Gourley, Eric Howk, Zoe Manville, Jason Sechrist and Kyle O'Quin in New York. **Below and following page:** Gourley and Carothers.





are new, but the band's defiantly humble embrace of it is baked in.

• • •

The merch table offers a T-shirt whose large letters scream I LIKE PORTUGAL. THE MAN BEFORE THEY SOLD OUT. Gourley tells me it was inspired by his love of 1990s hip-hop and Wu-Tang Clan, one of the two groups that got him interested in new music during that decade. (The other was Oasis.) He talks a lot about his love of hip-hop — how the genre is forward-thinking, while rock is stuck in the past. Incidentally, the shirt was released a few months before "Feel It Still" definitively put the group in a position to be called sellouts.

"It made me think about that era in the music industry where hip-hop was just coming up," Gourley explains. *"We're the greatest. We're the biggest*. That's why the first poster we put out for 'Feel It Still' said 'featuring the smash hit "Feel It Still." ' You don't know if it's going to happen, but there's a bit of willing it to happen."

As kids living in the boonies, they got much of their musical education from mainstream radio, TV commercials and film trailers. Being into the most obscure underground music was a luxury they didn't have. "I'd like to be able to turn on any radio station and see any commercial and good music coming from anywhere," Carothers says. "Help make the mainstream better."

The fact that, in 2017, PTM scored a number-one hit single as a band that started out playing basement shows more than a decade earlier makes very little sense; no wonder *Billboard* reported that "Feel It Still" was the "biggest rock crossover hit in five years." The last breakthrough rock song of its calibre was Gotye's "Somebody That I Used to Know" in 2012. But Gotye didn't enter the mainstream as a seasoned touring concern like Portugal. The Man, whose members were already earning a living off the fans they'd developed over many years. That night, when I notice the range of ages in the crowd, the success of "Feel It Still" seems more like a bonus than an arrival. Without it, the group would still be on the road, grinding it out.

Next-level catchiness aside, the band doesn't seem to have much insight into why "Feel It Still" has blown up. In fact, the song was conceived with unusual ease and swiftness. The melody, borrowed from the Marvelettes' "Please, Mr. Postman," gets stuck in your head instantly, making it ripe for multiple Spotify plays and commercials; it's the kind of earworm you don't bother fighting. Miley Cyrus mouthed the lyrics on *The Tonight Show* as part of a lipsynch battle with Jimmy Fallon, saying of it, "Sometimes a new song comes out and you just can't get it out of your head."

Unlike a lot of bands that have arisen from the indie-rock world, PTM has never fought mainstream success. In fact, considering the scale of producers it has worked within the past seven years (John Hill, Mike D, Danger Mouse, Stint), a breakout hit was likely always part of the plan. The members never admit to that agenda outright, but they openly embrace mainstream channels. Gourley tells me how confounding it is to hear from musician friends who get signed and then intentionally make anti-commercial music.

"Are you f#cking kidding me? That's such an elitist idea," Gourley says. "Indie bands want to be super indie, super weird. I think they lost track of being competitive. I think that's really what's missing in rock and roll. It's not that hip-hop is taking over; it's like y'all stop being competitive."

Back when the band was starting out, indie rock was in a strange place. Vampire Weekend, TV on the Radio, Grizzly Bear, Animal Collective and Of Montreal were among the scene's big names; none of them

"THAT'S WHAT'S MISSING IN ROCK AND ROLL. IT'S LIKE Y'ALL STOP BEING COMPETITIVE."

bore a passing resemblance to Portugal. The Man. From the beginning, PTM has earned tepid reviews from make-or-break outlets like Pitchfork, a fact that irks Gourley if you get him talking about it.

Since joining Atlantic in 2010, the group have had access to resources they only dreamed of as they crisscrossed the country in a beat-up van. Even after 2013's *Evil Friends* didn't become a chart-smashing success, they were still able to work for three years with Beastie Boys' Mike D and Danger Mouse on the follow-up, which was to be called *Gloomin + Doomin*. Sessions would start and stop; the band would redo tracks. Gourley says the resulting music is very "experimental" — a common music euphemism suggesting that its creators are lost.

The musicians were used to putting out a record a year, and they still think in accordance with the scrappy DIY aesthetic they started with. Uncomfortable working in nice studios, they regrouped. They went back to their old agent, a dear friend. They brought on Howk, a childhood friend from Alaska, as second guitarist. Original drummer Jason Sechrist, who'd been in and out of the band since the early days, came back not long before the new album dropped. *Gloomin + Doomin* got scrapped in favour of a fresh start, a new album title — Woodstock — and mostly new songs.

"It was about us wanting to take things back to where we come from, the family that we started with," Gourley tells me later. The decision to reconceive the project resulted in large part from an off-hand comment made by Gourley's dad, who wondered aloud why they were taking so long to make the new album. Don't you just go into the studio with your instruments and record? "We had stressed about it for a long time," Carothers says. "That was the straw that broke the camel's back."

• • •

Lyrically, Portugal. The Man has always had a knack for combining the personal with the political, in its own stream-of-consciousness style. During the three years spent working on Gloomin + Doomin, the band members felt they were losing touch with the outside world, particularly as they watched Donald Trump Godzilla-stomp his way to the White House. At a certain point, releasing years-old music just wasn't going to cut it.

"If you're not putting out your song — that thing that was in the air that sparked that idea — for three months, it's totally irrelevant," Gourley says. "We recorded up to two weeks before *Woodstock* came out, which is not common with rock bands. I really think that's why hip-hop does so well."

The new album's title was inspired by an original ticket from the 1969 concert that Gourley's father found. It's also a reminder of the importance of connecting to the times music is created in. Opening track "Number One" samples Richie Havens from the historic three-day lovefest. The chorus of "Feel It Still" references both 1966 and 1986 — glancing allusions to the civil rights movement and the release of Beastie Boys' debut record. The video features a shot of a Sikh man burning a newspaper with the headline INFO WARS — a move that earned the band death threats — and ends with Gourley watching TV over the sounds of a crowd yelling, "Fight back."

As big as the song has become, it's a weird little exercise that doesn't match much else happening in pop music at the moment, which brings us back to the band's perpetual sense of being outsiders. That's fine with the group; it gives them perspective on how to deal with fame. Mostly, they stick together like family and find ways to remind one another of the goofballs they were five and 10 years ago, and try not to let all the attention go to their heads. The longer I spend with them, the more I see them finding ways to insert these reminders into their daily lives as members of a now-famous rock band. In that light, the hot-dog roller appears key to the next level of their success.

"I feel like it's the best thing we've ever done. The whole place smells like a 7-Eleven," Gourley says later, gazing at the rotating meat. "It just reminds me of touring in a van. It's kind of rad to take you back to that. Remember when we toured in the van and would stop at gas stations every hundred miles? There's something about that. You never lose that." ■



JIM JEFFERIES

The hard-driving Aussie comedian takes on love and bananas, what the new Star Wars movies got wrong and the changing face of late night

Q1: *The Jim Jefferies Show debuted last year. What are the best and worst parts about having your own talk show?*

JEFFERIES: You get to meet the people you want to meet. We just interviewed Noel Gallagher two days ago. The only reason he's on the show is because he's one of my favourite rock stars, but the interview turned out great. I asked him about stuff like Brexit, health care, the #MeToo movement, gun control. The worst part: I get far more abuse on the internet than I used to when I was doing my sitcom, *Legit*. Back then, the worst thing people would say was "This show's not funny." People didn't hate-watch it. People do hate-watch this show, as they do with anything that's opinion- and news-based. Now they're like, "Libtard!"

Q2: *Your 2014 gun-control clip — in which you urge people to admit they're pro-gun simply because guns are cool — went viral and arguably led to you getting your own political talk show. How do you look back on that bit?*

JEFFERIES: What I like about the gun-control routine is that it gave people a lot of fun arguments to have at dinner parties, rather than just getting angry, yelling at each other and rattling off statistics. I wrote the whole thing the day after Sandy Hook. It came to me very quickly, because we were on the set of *Legit*, and I was having a debate with another actor, who was pro-gun. The whole routine came out of the argument we had over lunch. It actually would have been a one-off if people didn't write me so much hate mail about it.

Q3: *The New York Times called your brand of comedy "enlightened crudity." How does that grab you?*

JEFFERIES: Did they? That was nice of them. "Enlightened crudity" — yeah, I'll take that as a compliment. I don't see it as being crude, but I guess that's what makes me crude. But enlightened? I don't know if I'm enlightened — philosophical, maybe, but not enlightened. Like, I'm not saying it's good philosophy. Back then there must have been, like, Plato, and then that other cunt you never heard of. I'm probably that other cunt you never heard of.

Q4: *I heard you started out doing musical theatre and opera when you were at university and only stopped because you damaged your vocal cords. True?*

JEFFERIES: Yeah, I did a couple of summer opera gigs: *Roméo et Juliette* by Charles Gounod, in French, and *The Flying Dutchman* by Wagner. I was just in the chorus, in the back — a spear holder. But then I blew my throat out and had a couple of surgeries. I sometimes lie in interviews and say I have a degree in musical theatre, but I never finished.

Q5: *So was comedy your backup plan?*

JEFFERIES: No, I always wanted to be a comedian. I was just doing theatre to appease my parents and because I didn't have the grades to get into university any other way. But you've gotta tap-dance and this and that, and I wasn't good at any of that. I really wanted to be a stand-up. I actually did two open-mike spots when I was 17, but then I didn't do any again till I was 23.

Q6: *Did the first two go that poorly?*

JEFFERIES: The second went appallingly bad. They said you had to bring a parent if you were under 18, so it went really bad in front of my dad. It was a really rainy day, and we had to >>



drive all the way back together. He was like, "You're good at other things.…" He was trying to give an encouraging speech, but it was really disheartening. It was good that I went to university in Perth, because it's a very isolated city, not much of a comedy scene. So I got real good, real fast — in my mind. I was already used to having stage time, so I hit the ground running. I was like, "Wow, I'm good at this." And then I moved to Sydney, and I was like, "I'm all right at this." And then I moved to London, and I was like, "I might get by." So yeah, it took a while.

Q7: I've also heard that you hate bananas. What's wrong with you?

JEFFERIES: I've never touched a banana except when I was a child and my brother mashed one into my face. But I have never willingly picked up a banana. I don't like the smell of them, the texture. I'm not a picky eater, but I've vomited several times just looking at someone eating a banana. I actually had a banana breakthrough recently: I took my son on a two-week string of gigs with me, just me and him. He's five and a picky eater, and one of the f#cking five or six things that he eats are f#cking bananas. I know they're good for you, and when you're on a plane and he's hungry and won't eat the meal, you gotta get something into him that's good, you know? So I actually peeled a banana for him, and then I had to sit next to him and just shut my eyes. Now that's love.

Q8: Do you have any other surprisingly strong opinions on little things?

JEFFERIES: I can get into fights about Love Actually. I hate that movie.

Q9: You've said that social media is a place where you showcase your best days, and standup comedy is the opposite: It's about sharing your worst day over and over. Does that mean you don't like social media?

JEFFERIES: Yeah, I'm not a big fan. Social media makes you feel shit about whatever relationship you're in. Everyone else is having a better time than you are. Everyone else is amazing, and you don't get to go on enough holidays. A lot of the time I'm on social media, it's because I've been told I should do it more. Instagram's not a good medium for a guy who looks like me. I don't mind Twitter as much, but I don't really do one-liners, so that's not a format that works out well for me. It's good for the occasional argument with another celebrity.

Q10: If you could rewrite any movie, what would you pick?

JEFFERIES: Superman IV. And Superman III. And all three of the Star Wars prequels — could've made those a lot better. And I'll tell you what other film: The f#cking Last Jedi was a piece of shit.

Q11: I almost don't want to ask, but why don't you think The Last Jedi is good?

JEFFERIES: Here's what The Last Jedi and The Force Awakens do wrong: In Return of the Jedi they beat the Empire, and now, immediately, the Empire's back? No, no, no! There's always a time of "good." Like in the real world, power goes back and forth: We go Republicans, Democrats, Republicans, Democrats. What should have happened is Luke and Leia are running shit now. They're the government but maybe slightly corrupt at this stage, because power corrupts, right? So the Empire's all shut down, but you've still got some disgruntled ex-stormtroopers and some young people who are the equivalent of neo-Nazis. They're like, 'Oh, I want to be a stormtrooper.' They're obsessed with the old ways. Maybe they salute pictures of f#cking Darth Vader.

Q12: But do you realise you just described Kylo Ren, Adam Driver's character?

JEFFERIES: No, because you need the good guys to be the big people and the bad guys to be the little people. Then the bad guys rise up and get their victory over the good guys, and we're off to the races again. And who knows what the f#ck's going on with Snoke? Who is he? What was the point of him? He was a huge hologram, and they missed a big opportunity by not making him two feet tall in real life, like an evil Yoda.

Q13: You've made a lot of raunchy and offensive jokes over the years, many of which come from personal experience: One character on Legit had muscular dystrophy like a friend of yours, and you had a bit about getting diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome. Has your approach to topics like that changed over the years as your career has grown, especially in today's atmosphere?

JEFFERIES: No. I write things as they happen to me. If I had a dodgy situation or a one-night stand now, of course I would still talk about it. I don't see any problem with it, as long as it's a true story. What constantly surprises me, though, is people taking stories I've done and writing in articles that I did all these things verbatim. Some of the stories I tell are 50 or even 10 percent true. You start with a story, you tell it onstage, and then you add a line and you take out a thing and you add another line, and then all of a sudden the story's bigger. It's still entertainment. Now, with the whole "being on the spectrum" thing — when I was a kid they said I had ADD. Is it just that people aren't allowed to be weird? Are we diagnosing personalities? I know that some people really are extremely autistic, but can't I just be awkward? I don't view myself any differently now. Other people have used it as an excuse for my behaviour. [laughs] I think they did an episode of Curb Your Enthusiasm about that recently, where Larry David is acting like an asshole and then saying, "I'm on the spectrum."

Q14: You also make a lot of tongue-in-cheek jokes about being a foreigner and taking American jobs. Are there any rising non-white-guy comedians you'd like to plug to make up for that?

JEFFERIES: One of our best writers on the show, a guy named Curtis Cook, does very good stand-up. I would suggest him. I think Michelle Wolf's amazing; she just got a show similar to mine on Netflix. Sarah Tiana is

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hysterical. Kelsey Cook is very good.

Q15: The Jim Jefferies Show is one of the only late-night talk shows currently on that didn't exist before the Trump administration. How does that affect how you put the show together?

JEFFERIES: I didn't think he'd win. People tell me, "This show is Trump bashing." But if he hadn't been voted in, we would have done a fair amount of Hillary bashing, or whoever-was-in-power bashing. It's establishment bashing. When he's doing something good, I try to comment on it — not to appease people but to appease myself. I was saying in the writers' room today: Is he responsible for the stock market doing well? Because if he is, I don't want to tease him about that. Even if it's just a throwaway comment: "Although he has fixed the stock market and unemployment is down…." You gotta give credit where credit's due.

Q16: Has anything happened between seasons that you wish you could have done a segment on?

JEFFERIES: I would have enjoyed doing a bit when the "shithole countries" comment went down. John Oliver talked about the Australian Deputy Prime Minister who got his mistress knocked up — I would have done a good bit on that.

Q17: Home-court advantage. How has late-night comedy changed in the past few years?

JEFFERIES: People doing it have become more politicised. Late-night hosts never used to give their opinions outside of joke form. You never saw Jay Leno cry after a massacre, like Kimmel did. And people used to almost be on teams, like "I'm a Letterman guy" or "I'm a Leno guy." Now you might watch one Kimmel a week, then one Fallon. I will say this about John Oliver's show — and I'm not taking anything away from it — its lead-in is Game of Thrones, the most popular show on earth. So let's not give it too much credit, right? The people who fall asleep during Game of Thrones are watching John Oliver. My lead-in is Tosh.0, which I'm not turning my nose up at, but I can't compare my ratings to its ratings.

Q18: Do you watch Game of Thrones?

JEFFERIES: No. I watched one season, but I just didn't get why the characters cared so much. It's like, "Oh, now I'm the king of this town that has 12 people." You're a f#cking idiot in a village, mate. And every time I liked a character, they got killed, so I was like, F#ck this. There are a lot of breasts, but if I want to see breasts, I'll read your magazine. But to de-stress, I've been watching a lot of sitcoms. I just watched the last season of The Goldbergs. And The Good Place is really good.

Q19: I was just watching the reboot of One Day at a Time. Have you seen it?

JEFFERIES: It's so bizarre that you mention that, because I was actually cast as [Krameresque building manager] Schneider before I decided to do the talk show instead. If I'd done it, the character would have been rewritten as a slightly bigoted Australian guy. I remember in the audition the line was something like "Cubans can be so loud when you're partying," and I changed it to "you people," to make it slightly more racist. I watched a few episodes, but I haven't continued to watch it because I don't want to regret not taking the job.

Q20: What does that alternate life look like?

JEFFERIES: That would be a very easy, nice life. There's probably more money in sitcoms, and I wouldn't get hate mail all the time. Look, I see myself retiring one day, to Maui or something, and becoming the four-to-six. drive-time radio guy. It doesn't have to pay well. I just need to work two hours a day to keep busy — just every day go, "It's Jim Jefferies's Drive Time. And there's no traffic, because you're in Maui. Go for a swim!"



Samantha GAGAS

Photography by **LUIS GOMEZ** *Produced by* **UNIVERSE 137 STUDIOS**
Make-up by **ALICIA DECOSMO OF GLAM BY ALICIA XO** *Text by* **NELLY MADUNA**









I'm an accountant turned model with a passion for fitness, business, and modelling. Nothing makes me feel more empowered as a woman than being confident and feeling sexy. I left my job to pursue my dreams, which has been the best decision of my life. I have been so fortunate to travel the world, meet incredible people, and find happiness in my career. Maybe I am a dreamer and a bit of wanderlust, but I love trying new things and exploring the world. Maybe I just like a challenge!

Hobbies and interests
I grew up on a ranch with horses, so riding horses is one of my favourite hobbies. I love everything about horses from competing to trail riding in the mountains. I even know how to rope cattle, which surprises many people. This girl likes to get a little dirty sometimes! I am also very adventurous. I've been skydiving, paragliding, scuba diving, and so much more! I like doing things that have a sense of danger.

Goals and career ambitions
One of my goals with modelling is to be featured in major magazines, like Playboy. I honestly cannot believe that I am in Playboy right now. It makes me smile from ear to ear! Apart from my modelling career, starting my own business has always been a dream of mine. I am so happy to say that I am opening my own modelling franchise in Denver, Colorado with the International Bikini Model Search this year, and also launching online fitness challenges. I feel so blessed to take two of my favourite interests, modelling and fitness, and make them a career.

Who inspires me
My parents. They have done so much for me, and I only hope that I can be as good to my children someday. Plus, they have taught me how to build a life from nothing. Not everyone gets the opportunity to learn how to fail, start over again, and be successful. I would prefer to live a life I have earned over a life that has been handed to me.

Turn-ons
Men who know what they want and go for it. It shows confidence, which I find is super sexy.
Turn-offs
Jealousy. It's just not an attractive emotion because it usually means there is a lack of trust.

The perfect date
Wine me and dine me! I rarely go to fancy restaurants, but I do love them for date night. They create this atmosphere of feeling spoiled, and every girl loves to feel spoiled! A cosy table for two, a bottle of red, and anything chocolate for dessert—win, win, win!

My favourite food
Sushi

My girl crush
Candice Swanepoel. She is drop dead gorgeous. I used to get my hair done and brought her picture for inspiration. Now, I'm embracing my natural blonde, but I still find her to be stunning!

My biggest fear
Snakes! I have been known to jump at a cartoon snake on TV, just because the sound of the fake "rattler" startled me!

One destination I'd love to visit
Iceland. I'd love to see the northern lights and go to the Blue Lagoon! Definitely on my bucket list!

I'm not embarrassed to say
I was a bit of a nerd in school. I was the one who always knew the answer to the teacher's questions and got A's on my exams. Hey, I'm smart and sexy! I guess I'm not that embarrassed...

My favourite quote
Stop looking for happiness in the same place you lost it.

You can follow more of my adventures on Instagram samanthagagas and Facebook sgagas





PLAYBOY INTERVIEW: CECILE RICHARDS

A candid conversation with the Planned Parenthood President on holding one of the most controversial jobs in America and the battles she'll face once she steps down

Few jobs in America invite more conflict than the one Cecile Richards has held for more than a decade. As President of Planned Parenthood since 2006, she is viewed as either a champion of women's rights or a baby murderer, a saviour or evil incarnate. It all depends on the colour of your politics. But red or blue, it helps to hear Richards out, if only to test the edge of your razor-sharp opinions on subjects such as sex education, HIV treatment, transgender health care and the most volatile topic of all, abortion.

Richards is stepping away from her position even as her biggest battles are escalating. A pro-life White House is determined to protect the sanctity of the "unborn" while progressive minions rally in seas of pink pussy hats. Add in the #MeToo movement and a sense that our nation is irreconcilably divided on issues such as birth control and immigration reform, and you can see why Richards will stay busy long after her exit in May.

Her opposition might best be described as volcanic. In 2015, after a secretly recorded video surfaced of a Planned Parenthood official purportedly discussing the sale of aborted fetal tissue, Richards endured more than four hours of brutal questioning by congressional Republicans who wanted to cut nearly half a billion dollars in annual federal funding for Planned Parenthood. The deceptively edited video was found to be part of a smear campaign, and congressional and state probes into the charges found no wrongdoing by Planned Parenthood, though the Trump administration has indicated it may conduct a further review.

Richards, 60, clearly thrives under such pressure. At five-foot-10 and with short platinum-blonde hair, she exults in her role as professional rabble-rouser — hence the title of her new memoir, Make Trouble. It's a personality trait she shared with her late mother, the Texas politician and all-around-firebrand Ann Richards, who famously skewered George HW Bush in her keynote address at the 1988 Democratic National Convention with the bon mot "He was born with a silver foot in his mouth."

Cecile Richards was born in Waco in 1957, the oldest of Ann's four children with her husband, David, a prominent civil rights attorney. The family moved to Dallas and later to Austin, the only hospitable place in Texas for a household of liberals who, as Richards puts it, "never backed away from a righteous fight." In ninth grade she got in trouble for wearing a black armband to protest the Vietnam war. "My parents couldn't have been prouder," she says. A life of activism followed. Richards skipped commencement



"The question is, do people believe that women should make their own decisions in consult with their doctors, or do we think that should be government's decision?"



"In a lot of states and communities, Planned Parenthood is probably one of the few places men can go where there's no judgment, just straight-up health care."



"If I could go back in time and give some advice to my teenage self, consent would be a big part of it: Your body is yours. You get to decide what you do with it."

Photography by **BRIGITTE LACOMBE**

exercises at Brown University to unfurl a FREE SOUTH AFRICA banner and spent the early years of her marriage to Kirk Adams — they now have three grown kids — organising unions for nursing-home and hotel workers. After returning to Texas to help her mother become elected governor of that state, Richards founded America Votes with the goal of rallying more citizens to the polls. She also served as deputy chief of staff to Nancy Pelosi in her role as House Democratic whip. In 2006, Planned Parenthood hired Richards as President, and in just over a decade she has grown the organisation's corps of volunteers and supporters from 2.5 million to 11.5 million, with 700,000 new donors coming on since the 2016 election — the largest funding surge in Planned Parenthood history. One in five American women uses the organisation's services at some point in her life. With these milestones behind her, Richards is turning her focus to getting more women into public office, among other pursuits. On a cold winter morning in Manhattan, Richards sat down in her spacious Central Park West apartment with journalist **David Hochman**, whose last *Playboy Interview* was with Vox.com's Ezra Klein. Says Hochman, "What struck me most was how human Richards is. She's at the centre of so many storms and yet comes across as warm, connected and excited about life. She met me with her little dog, Ollie, in her arms and later became animated talking (with an uptick in her Southern drawl) about her passion for baking pies. Even if you don't agree with Richards's ideas, you might still want to get some Texas barbeque with her."

PLAYBOY: Planned Parenthood has been around for more than 100 years. If your opponents had their way and defunded it, what would that look like for America?

RICHARDS: First, let me clarify and say the phrase *defund Planned Parenthood* is misleading. Planned Parenthood does not get a blank check from the federal government, and there's no line item in the federal budget that goes to Planned Parenthood. We work like other health care providers or hospitals in that we get reimbursed for health care services. We get Medicaid reimbursements for services like birth control, cancer screenings and the testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections. More than half our patients, about 1.4 million, are low-income folks who rely on Medicaid for the preventive care that Planned Parenthood provides. In other words, the people who need us most are the folks who already have the least access to care. Take that away and you'll see trouble immediately. If you chart the country like a heat map, you'll see that the states that make it hardest for women to get care are the ones with the highest rates of teenage pregnancy, unintended pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and HIV infection.



It's unbelievable in the 21st century that we're still fighting for these services, but that's what's happening in Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Georgia and my home state of Texas, which is sort of the poster child for everything you can do wrong when it comes to women's health and reproductive health. And it's not just a Southern problem. Ohio is a good example, where they've tried to shut Planned Parenthood out of pretty much everything, and we've had to sue for services like HIV testing. In Paul Ryan's district in Wisconsin, Planned Parenthood is currently the only option for family planning or women's health for many low-income women. Without Planned Parenthood, you'd see higher maternal mortality rates, repeat teen pregnancies, dangerous abortions—it wouldn't be pretty.

PLAYBOY: What was it like to watch the Mississippi Governor sign a bill this year that would ban almost all abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy?

RICHARDS: It's another dangerous bill in a state that's already home to some of the worst health outcomes in the country for women and kids. This law is on top of existing restrictions and the fact that Mississippi is home to only one provider of safe, legal abortion. Many women already must drive for hours or even leave the state to access abortion. It's a dire situation made worse. But it ain't over till it's over, in Mississippi or anywhere else. A lawsuit has already been filed, since the law is unconstitutional. And not long ago, the voters of Mississippi went to the polls and voted down a ban on legal abortion, so I don't believe the Governor is representing the needs of women in his state to make their own decisions about their pregnancies. It's a personal issue, and it should be the decision of the pregnant person, not politicians.

PLAYBOY: In your opinion, when does a human life begin?

RICHARDS: This is a debate people have different feelings about based on their religion or their personal feelings. For me, it was when my babies were born, and they've been such an important part of my life. That was it for me.

PLAYBOY: What about from an abortion standpoint?

RICHARDS: I'm not sure what the difference is in that question.

PLAYBOY: Is there any point during pregnancy when an abortion would be terminating a life?

RICHARDS: That's a question medical folks have dealt with, and I'm not a doctor. I've spent a lot of time with ob-gyns, and they will tell you there is no specific moment when life begins. It depends on the pregnancy, and that's frankly why doctors and their patients should be in charge of these decisions and not government. For Planned Parenthood, it depends on the state and what kind of abortion services we provide. We go to whatever the legal limit is, but it isn't the same state by state. *[Editor's note: US Federal law permits abortion into the third trimester in certain cases,*

though the vast majority of abortions are performed within the first 13 weeks.] There are women with really troubled pregnancies, and unfortunately there are very few doctors in America they can go to. This is where there's a real inequity of care. These women are in heartbreaking situations as it is, and then they have to fly across the country to have someone provide them with health care. That seems incredibly cruel, and I'd like it to change.

PLAYBOY: The White House isn't exactly in your corner on any of this.

RICHARDS: Not at all. We knew Planned Parenthood would be a target for this administration, and it really has been. Mike Pence had been the architect of getting rid of Planned Parenthood when he was in Congress, though he was wildly unsuccessful. He introduced the first federal measure to block our patients from care and then introduced something like five more measures. He also signed eight anti- abortion bills into law as Governor of Indiana. He's been waiting for this moment. The biggest myth perpetrated by people like Pence is that if Planned Parenthood shut down, these women could simply go elsewhere. That just isn't true. For a lot of women, we're all they've got.

PLAYBOY: The core issue for conservatives is that they don't want federal dollars going to abortion, right?

RICHARDS: As I think most folks know, the federal government does not pay for abortion services at Planned Parenthood or at hospitals except in very limited circumstances. That's per the Hyde Amendment, which has been law for more than 40 years. I disagree with that law, and I think it has prevented low-income women from having all their options available to them; however, it is the law. The reimbursements the federal government provides to Planned Parenthood, or any other hospital or health care provider, are for preventive care: breast exams, cervical cancer exams, family planning, STI testing and treatment — the very things, in many cases, that prevent unintended pregnancy. The question for me is, why single out Planned Parenthood since we abide by the same regulations that every other healthcare provider in America abides by?

PLAYBOY: Well, Planned Parenthood is often seen as an abortion factory that masquerades as a reproductive-health organisation. It's the country's largest provider of abortions, with more than 300,000 procedures done each year. The argument is that if a woman on federal assistance comes in to talk about family planning, the result may very well be an abortion.

RICHARDS: That's no different than it is at any hospital. If a woman on Medicaid goes to a hospital for family planning and they provide a full array of healthcare options, including safe and legal abortion, that hospital gets reimbursed for that service, as they should. That's the same thing we do. It's no different. I think the difference is that we're the largest women's health care provider in the country. In my view, if you're a woman on Medicaid, you should have the same rights to whatever health care provider you want as a member of Congress does. That's fair and equal.

PLAYBOY: Maybe the biggest hot-button issue for Planned Parenthood has been the donation of fetal tissue for what's often called stem-cell research. Why is this a cause worth championing?

RICHARDS: For a very long time fetal-tissue research has been important in helping to lead to all kinds of medical advances — everything from vaccines for polio and measles to research on degenerative eye disease, Down syndrome and infectious diseases, to name a few. Almost every family has been helped in some way by this research, and there's still much more to do. Fetal-tissue donation is offered only at a limited number of our health centres, but Planned Parenthood is proud to support women who choose to donate fetal tissue, honouring their desire to contribute to potentially lifesaving research and cures.

I think there are men, a lot of them in office, who simply don't believe that women should be able to have sex freely.

PLAYBOY: President Trump reinstated the gag rule that blocks foreign aid to any non-governmental group that discusses abortion. He also appointed officials to the Department of Health and Human Services who are contraception sceptics, right?

RICHARDS: That's right. HHS is a dangerous place right now when it comes to women's health. It's been filled with folks who are not health care experts but instead are anti-choice, religious ideologues. They're rewriting the rules for the [Title X] family planning program to steer it away from birth- control options and more toward what they call "fertility awareness" and the rhythm method. They're doing the same thing with sex education, basically trying to move back to an abstinence-only mind-set.

PLAYBOY: You have to admit, abstinence is a pretty effective way to avoid getting pregnant.

RICHARDS: Abstinence should always be part of a sex-education program, and we teach it as an option at Planned Parenthood. The problem is, it can't stand on its own. We absolutely believe that young people should know about abstinence, but we also know that young people think about sex, and that at some point they're probably going to be sexually active. If they know only about abstinence and don't know how birth control works, that puts them at a high risk for pregnancy and STIs. People on the right believe that teaching kids about sex leads them to have sex earlier, but no credible study has found that a comprehensive sex education encourages early sexual activity. All the research shows that it delays it, actually. You don't just go out and have sex because you've learned about it in school.

PLAYBOY: Are you suggesting that young people will discover sex on their own?

RICHARDS: Put i t t his w ay: I 've had three kids. It's not like we as adults created the idea of sex and had to pass that down to them. Kids are already thinking about it. One of the most important things we can do as a society, and as parents, is give young people the information they need about their bodies. I mean, the questions we get at Planned Parenthood in 2018 are just stunning.

PLAYBOY: Give me an example.

RICHARDS: It's misinformation on all levels. People are constantly wondering if they can get pregnant from unprotected sex, and of course the answer is yes. Or someone will say they heard you couldn't get pregnant if you drink Mountain Dew, or if you stand on your head after sex or during sex. There are a ton of myths out there. We've done a terrible job in this country of talking to young people about the basics of sexuality and about risky behavior. That's why it's so heartbreaking to see a state like Texas no longer participating in the HIV Prevention Program, for political reasons. I mean, who in this country wouldn't want to keep a young person from getting a sexually transmitted infection, particularly HIV, if they could do something about it? This is where politics really gets in the way.

PLAYBOY: Is it politics or God? Aren't religious beliefs and morality shaping these decisions?

RICHARDS: For some these a re religious i ssues, and I have total respect for people whose religious values are that they don't want to talk to

their kids about sex or they don't want to use birth control. I have no problem with that. That's their business, but it's not the business of government to put their political values, if you will, or even religious values on anyone else. I think the mindset on the right actually goes beyond religion, frankly. It's really about women and sex.

PLAYBOY: Women and sex? Say more.

RICHARDS: I think there are men, a lot of them in office, who simply don't believe that women should be able to have sex freely. They don't think women should control their own bodies, and they're apprehensive about how things are changing for men and women. They're frustrated that women now represent more than half the undergraduate students in this country and half the law students and medical students. Women are everywhere, and for some men that is unsettling. People may think our opponents are rallying around religion, but it's really about control over women's opportunities. These men may not get it, but women get it, trust me.

PLAYBOY: So the trouble comes down to conservative men feeling threatened by women?

RICHARDS: You can look at it practically. Who has been in charge for the past umpteen million years? Not women. As Gloria Steinem always said, no one ever gave up power without a fight. The old guard is scared as women take action like never before. It's such an exciting time to be a woman and to be an activist. Every day, someone comes up to me on the subway or wherever and wants to know what they can do next, how they can get involved. People are fired up. Women are organising, joining political groups, going to marches, running for office. It's a healthy sign. Women are no longer waiting for instructions or waiting to have all their ducks in a row. This is the time.

PLAYBOY: Trump may be the best thing to have happened to the feminist movement.

RICHARDS: I guess if there is a silver lining — or, as someone called it, a tin lining — to this administration, it's how it has engaged more people than I would ever have imagined. As painful as the months since November 2016 have been, seeing how bad this administration has been for so many people and how they've tried to turn back progress, there's also an undeniable flip side. Trump has lit a fire for millions of people — women, yes, but also men — to step forward, be heard, get involved in fighting back and making trouble, and I'm tremendously optimistic about where we're heading. The ground is shifting under our feet everywhere, not just in Washington. I've been working on progressive issues or social justice or women's issues my whole life. I've never seen anything like this. It's multigenerational. It's not just young women; it's older women saying, "No way are we going back to those days." One of my favourite signs at marches is the one I see older women carrying that says, HOW LONG DO WE NEED TO KEEP FIGHTING THIS CRAP? It has been so inspiring to see #MeToo and Time's Up become massive grassroots movements that connect people to a changing of the tide. It may have started in Hollywood, but it has shifted to people around the world standing up for dignity and respect. Once this all gets boiling, that's when you will see real cultural and social change.

PLAYBOY: Getting the birth control benefit covered under Obamacare was a major victory for you. Do you think that legislation will hold up?

RICHARDS: It's so important. It was one of the biggest fights we had at Planned Parenthood, to get birth control available for everybody at no cost, but it happened. Now, more than 55 million women are eligible for no-cost birth control. That really matters, because it gives women freedom regardless of their income level or which state they live in. Birth control is now a right in all 50 states under various insurance plans. Yes, it is absolutely something the current administration is trying to roll back, but here's the thing: Once you give 55 million women freedom like this — and these are women from every background and political persuasion — it's hard to take that freedom away. Women started sending us their Walgreens receipts that said "zero co-pay." Once women began to understand this was a benefit they had, they understood what it would mean for the administration and Congress to rescind those rights. That knowledge is energising women to show up and not just let politics happen to them.

I just don't believe we'll have the political change we need until culture aligns and drives it.

PLAYBOY: More than 500 women are running for office in November, most of them Democrats. What impact might that have?

RICHARDS: It could be huge. Women are a lot more effective once they get in office. They actually get things done. They can work across party lines. Most of them do not do this so they can be called "Congresswoman." They do it because they need to get things done. Women in office and women running for office have an especially hard burden: not only to get elected but to work twice as hard once they're there — and thank God they do. The ideal vision overall is that we protect the Senate, because I think they're the only rational body holding the line right now. Maybe not so much under Mitch McConnell, but it has generally been the place where you can have high-level conversations about important topics, from immigration to abortion rights. So holding the Senate — getting women in the Senate — is crucial, and I'm also optimistic about the Democrats taking back the House.

PLAYBOY: What is it going to take?

RICHARDS: My biggest interest for November is getting more women to vote. If women voted, even if you added five percent more women to any contest, that could be the tipping balance, and women are poised to do that. They're already running the phone banks. They're running the get-out-the-vote organisations. Black women in Alabama are a key reason Doug Jones is now in the United States Senate. Women in Virginia did a ton of work in electing a Democrat in the governor's race there, and they helped flip many seats across the country. Especially with so many women running for office, both incumbents and new faces, it feels like this is a singular political moment, and I hope they recognise that. In a funny way, that has been the story for many years; it has just never been told. Women are the reason Barack Obama was re-elected, I believe. He was a great first-term president, but women really fuelled his 2012 campaign.

PLAYBOY: What about you? Your former boss Nancy Pelosi said you are so organised as a leader that you could be President.

RICHARDS: And she knows how to butter everybody up.

PLAYBOY: Seriously, is running in 2020 something you'd consider?

RICHARDS: Well, I think I could do a better job than the one who's in there now, for sure. But it's not an aspiration I have. I clearly hope that we elect a woman sometime soon. We're overdue and it's important, and I think we will. As I said, women are the most potent political force in the country right now. If we can get our act together, we could determine everything not only this November but two years from now. At Planned Parenthood we've done an extraordinary job of engaging women as voters around issues of reproductive rights, but I've also learned that women need much more: They need equal pay, they need affordable childcare, they need paid >>



family leave. So I'm excited about stepping aside from this current job and working on a host of issues that change women's opportunity in this country. I want to live my values. I spent a lot of time grooming the next generation of leaders. It's hard to do, but you've got to move aside and let one of these amazing people do this, and now I can use my energy and whatever talent I have left to do something else. I've marched. I've organised rallies. I've raised money. I've raised awareness. I've fought Congress. I've done all this, but if we don't shift that into political power and voting, we won't have finished the job. Frankly, if half the members of Congress could get pregnant, we wouldn't be talking about Planned Parenthood. We'd be talking about how we could better fund family planning.

PLAYBOY: Is it true that the number of teen pregnancies in this country is rapidly decreasing?

RICHARDS: It's amazing. I want to shout it from the rooftops. We're at a record low for teen pregnancy in the US. We're at a 30-year low for unintended pregnancy in general. We're also at a record low for abortion rates since Roe vs Wade was decided.

PLAYBOY: How do you explain that?

RICHARDS: It's a little early, but I think we'll see that it's because more women are eligible for no-cost birth control. Not just that, but there are all kinds of birth control now. You don't just have a pill that you have to remember to take every day. There's the patch, the sponge, the ring, the cervical cap, condoms, female condoms. There are all kinds of choices.

PLAYBOY: What is the most effective form of birth control?

RICHARDS: Well, the most effective one is the one you use, which I guess is an obvious point. But definitely the longer-acting methods like IUDs are highly effective, though not everybody likes them and they don't protect against STIs, which is why we always advocate dual use. Use a method that protects you from unintended pregnancy, and then use a condom to prevent STIs.

PLAYBOY: Why not just make birth control available over the counter?

RICHARDS: We should, and I think in the near future we will. There are over-the-counter pills going through the FDA approval process, which I believe will take another few years. But it's going to happen. I mean, they're sold over the counter around the world. The Plan B pill is available over the counter now. If you have unprotected sex, you can take what used to be called the morning-after pill as an effective method of preventing an unintended pregnancy. That happened under the Obama administration.

PLAYBOY: What about that long-promised male birth control pill?

RICHARDS: It's not here yet, but I think it's a great idea. My only problem with it is how would you know that the guy took it? I hate to be that way, but men have to be as engaged in birth control and preventing unintended pregnancy as women are, and that's changing. I'm excited about the birth control shot, Depo-Provera. Right now you get it from a nurse or doctor once every three months, but we just did a clinical trial on a self-injectable that you could take home and do yourself, which is amazing. Studies show that women stay on their birth control at much higher rates if they can take it home. I also see the abortion pill, which was introduced by Planned Parenthood in the US, taking hold. It was developed in the 1980s as RU-486. It's an easy and non-surgical way for a woman to terminate a pregnancy early on. If you're eight weeks pregnant or less, it works about 98 out of 100 times. At 10 weeks, it works about 93 out of 100 times. Women are already using it overseas. It gives them the ability to take their care into their own hands, particularly in states where they're making it impossible for women to get to a provider of safe and legal abortion. That technology is only going to get better.



PLAYBOY: You write in the book about your own abortion. What did that experience do to guide you as the head of Planned Parenthood?

RICHARDS: I didn't think about it that much except that, like a lot of women who have either had an abortion or, more important, had children, I became even more adamant about abortion rights. The responsibility of having a child is a lifetime decision. This isn't about having a cute little baby; this is about having a person you're responsible for forever. I didn't realise how important it was to talk about my own abortion until I did. It's important for people to talk about their abortions because it makes them feel less alone. Women face so much stigma and shame around this decision. But I think that's changing too. We have a long way to go, but folks are coming out with their abortion stories, and that's new. The reproductive-justice community was on this a long time ago, but it's refreshing to see abortion stories in movies that are not hysterical depictions. Jenny Slate's movie Obvious Child was the first abortion rom-com, but you're seeing it in television shows too. Shonda Rhimes featured an abortion story on Scandal. For Kerry Washington's character to have an abortion and for it to be a matter-of-fact occurrence was huge. I just don't believe we'll have the political change we need until culture aligns and drives it. It will become unacceptable to shame women and act as if abortion isn't and hasn't always been simply part of our world.

PLAYBOY: We've come all this way, and you, a nd y ou haven't used the term pro-choice once. Why not?

RICHARDS: I think the pro-choice, pro-life nomenclature is completely outdated and irrelevant. Those terms were used to create a political binary that's just not where people live. We quit using pro-choice at Planned Parenthood because it's a simplification of a complex personal issue, and people don't want to be labelled. Once you get beyond labels, folks' shoulders relax and they can have a conversation.

PLAYBOY: What's your preferred term?

RICHARDS: I don't have one. That's the thing about getting rid of labels: You can't just create a new one. The question is, do people believe that women should make their own decisions about their pregnancy in consult with their doctors, >>

or do we think that should be government's decision? Overwhelmingly, people do not want government or anyone else to make decisions for them.

PLAYBOY: You grew up in a house where battling for progressive causes was as normal as selling Girl Scout cookies. Was it ever difficult to be in a liberal minority?

RICHARDS: Texas makes it easy for you to be progressive in some ways. My parents were unrepentant liberals in Dallas, which meant we were pretty much against everything that was happening politically. That's what makes me so comfortable in the work I do now. I've always been tilting against the prevailing political climate and conventional wisdom, and I'm grateful to my parents for giving me that. You always lost more than you won, and that was good conditioning.

PLAYBOY: Do you remember your parents giving you "the talk" about sex?

RICHARDS: Barely. My parents weren't typical Texas parents, but they were just as hung-up as everybody else. I do remember my mother trying to draw anatomical things. What's interesting is that when I was growing up in Texas, there was better sex education than there is now. I mean, it was crazy antiquated and taught by coaches in my high school — because every teacher in Texas is a sports coach — but it did the job. Parents are the best at sex education, but a lot of them don't feel equipped or know what to say. They think that with social media and the internet there's too much information out there already, so a lot of parents avoid talking about it. I think the worst thing we can do for kids is pretend sex doesn't exist.

PLAYBOY: How young do you think kids should start learning about sex?

RICHARDS: It should absolutely start in elementary school with age-appropriate material: talking about parts of your body, what to expect from puberty. Certainly by middle school and high school it needs to be discussed in a big way. Again, it doesn't have to happen at home, though I think it should. We teach sex education at Planned Parenthood. Churches and temples teach it. But somebody needs to do it. If you don't talk to people when they're young, when are you going to talk to them?

PLAYBOY: Europe seems so much more, shall we say, chill when it comes to matters of sexuality. Anything we could learn from them?

RICHARDS: Well, you look at Europe and see lower rates of every troubling thing we see here in terms of sexually transmitted infections, unintended pregnancy, even abortion rates. In Europe, non-stigmatised sex education begins at a very early age. There's not a lot of debate about whether it works; we know it does. The debate here is whether we're going to let politics and politicians and particularly a bunch of old dudes in Congress decide what and when young people can learn. As with women's health care, these old guys are wildly out of step with the American people. This is not a Republican or Democrat issue. Parents don't want their kids to get pregnant before they're ready to have a family, and they definitely don't want them to get sick when they can avoid it.

PLAYBOY: Help us clarify a few things. Can you get, say, HPV or gonorrhoea from a toilet seat?

RICHARDS: That's a popular misconception. People write in to Planned Parenthood's textchat hotline with questions like this all the time, and our experts at the call centre in New York reply in real time. The answer is no.

PLAYBOY: Can you contract HIV by getting a piercing or tattoo?

Men can be advocates for women and feminist activists. That has been another generational change.

RICHARDS: Actually, yes. It's possible to spread HIV if your piercer or tattoo artist uses the same needles for different clients, which, obviously, they shouldn't do. So before you commit, find out whether the person uses a new needle for each client and how the needles are sterilised.

PLAYBOY: Is it true you can't get an STI from oral sex?

RICHARDS: Oh, you can definitely get an STI from oral sex. It's a good idea to make sure you're protecting yourself and your partner by using condoms and/or dental dams.

PLAYBOY: You can get herpes only if your partner is having an outbreak, right?

RICHARDS: Herpes can be spread even when there are no visible signs of an outbreak. There's no cure for herpes, but medication can help with symptoms and lower the chances of passing the virus to other people. The good news is, outbreaks usually become less frequent over time, and though herpes can be uncomfortable, it isn't dangerous. People with herpes have relationships, have sex and live perfectly healthy lives.

PLAYBOY: Most women have orgasms just through vaginal sex, correct?

RICHARDS: Uh, nope. Isn't this PLAYBOY? Who told you that?

PLAYBOY: The old joke goes that 80 percent of people masturbate, and the other 20 percent are lying. Planned Parenthood says masturbation has a health benefit. PLAYBOY readers are all ears. Do tell.

RICHARDS: I'm tellin' you, masturbation is good for you. There's a lot of research on this out there. Masturbation can release sexual tension, reduce stress, help you sleep better, improve self-esteem and body image, relieve muscle tension.… Should I keep going?

PLAYBOY: We're good, thanks. Last one: If you have an STD, what's the best way to tell your partner or the person you're dating?

RICHARDS: It's no fun to tell the person you're dating that you have an STD, but it's definitely the right thing to do. There's no one way to have this conversation, but here are a few tips. First, stay calm and remember you're not the only one dealing with this; millions of people have STDs, and plenty of them are in relationships. Having an STD is a health issue, plain and simple, and it doesn't mean anything about you as a person. Second, know your facts. There are a lot of myths about STDs out there, so read up on yours and be ready to answer your partner's questions. Third, think about the timing. Pick a time when you won't be distracted or interrupted, and choose a place that's private. Finally, remember to put your safety first. If you're afraid your partner might hurt you, you're probably better off with an e-mail, a text or a phone call. Some health departments have programs that can let your partners know they were exposed to an STD without giving them your name, unless you want them to. It's totally normal to be worried about how your partner will react, and there's no way around it: They might get freaked out. You might need to give them a little time and space to process the news. And of course Planned Parenthood is a great resource for safe and confidential information, testing, treatment and support.

PLAYBOY: What's your view on the rise of hookup culture? For people under the age of 30 especially, there's a sense that casual sexual encounters are fine.

RICHARDS: One of the things that amazes me when I get questions from young people is how often they ask things like "How do I know if someone really likes me?" I do think young people, even if they're more sexually active today — which, by the way, the research isn't

showing to be true — they're looking for the same thing everyone is looking for, which is human connection. There's as much looking for authentic relationships and love as there ever has been. I'm not an expert on the psyche of teens or college students, but research shows that most young people, male and female, regret these experiences in uncommitted relationships. I think it underscores the need for more honest conversations about the results of our sexual behaviour and what it means to have an equal and consensual relationship where you're both getting pleasure and having your needs met. It's not just about one person being sexually harassed or coerced; it's about having the right to say what you want.

PLAYBOY: You hear so much talk on college campuses and elsewhere about consent in sexual situations. In your opinion, what are the hallmarks of a consensual relationship?

RICHARDS: Consent is all about setting your personal boundaries and respecting the boundaries of the person you're in a relationship with. If I could go back in time and give some advice to my teenage self, consent would be a big part of it: Your body is yours. You get to decide what you do with it. At Planned Parenthood, there are a few things we talk about when we talk about consent. It's freely given: a choice you make without pressure, manipulation or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol. It's reversible: Anyone can change their mind at any time, no matter what. It's informed: You can consent only if you have the full story. It's specific: In other words, saying yes to one thing doesn't mean you've said yes to everything. And it's enthusiastic: When it comes to sex and relationships, you should only do things you want to do, not what you think you're expected to do.

PLAYBOY: Then there's pornography, which permeates our culture like never before. What's that doing for sex?

RICHARDS: That's something we're all trying to figure out. I don't know. The questions to focus on, particularly for young people, are "What is healthy sex?" and "What is consensual sex?" The internet is good for a lot of things, but there's a lot of bad stuff out there as well — violence against women, portrayal of sexual activities that are unsafe and unrealistic. That's one of the reasons we've invested in peer education on sexuality. When I came to Planned Parenthood about 12 years ago, I met these high school students in Kalamazoo, Michigan. They had learned everything about sex and all the issues we're talking about. They were kind of the Underground Railroad for sexual information in a place like Kalamazoo. They would talk to teachers about what they knew; they'd go to the school board and fight for sex education. I said, "You're not sex educators; you're our truth tellers." These engaged young people are the future. They began to build a movement within our organisation, and it brought kids together across the country, from Kalamazoo, Miami, East LA and beyond. There's now an LGBT component and similar groups on other campuses. We began taking them to Congress. There are many doors I can't get into, but you bring a teenager from anyone's congressional district and they'll get a meeting immediately. They can talk about what it means to not have sex education or affordable birth control or just about their lives. You can't say no to these kids. It's like what we're seeing among young people in this country in the wake of the shootings in Florida. The kids of this next generation are the best lobbyists I've ever seen. We had young women, teenagers, stand up at town hall meetings and take on US Senators over the issue of Planned Parenthood. That's something you never forget.

If we believe in progress and in taking away barriers, there's always going to be a next fight.

PLAYBOY: What can the average guy do to support reproductive rights?

RICHARDS: For starters, don't wait for instructions. These are your issues too. I guess I would say women need men's support, and it's not an us-against-them situation. Women are saying we want the same opportunities that men have had. Lots of men understand that. I was so moved by the men who marched last year. I think of my own father, who saw his wife become Governor of Texas, which was challenging for him, but he supported her. I'd also like guys to think that Planned Parenthood is for them too. Men can come in and get STI testing and treatment. We do more than 4 million tests a year. In a lot of states and communities Planned Parenthood is probably one of the few places men can go where there's no judgment, just straight-up healthcare. We do vasectomies too. The only time it's hard to get an appointment is March, when many guys get vasectomies so they can sit on the couch and watch March Madness basketball for a week. We also provide LGBT services, and in a number of states we're doing hormone-replacement therapy. It's been incredible to see as we expand transgender care how many people drive across state lines to come to Planned Parenthood. One young man just said to me Planned Parenthood was the first place he went where the medical provider knew more about what he needed than he did. He had to be his own advocate in the healthcare system. More broadly, men can be advocates for women and feminist activists. That has been another generational change, which is exciting. So many partners and couples come in together.

You see so many men at events and rallies and public meetings, whether it's about reproductive-care access or abortion rights. The legal right to abortion in this country is as high as it's ever been.

I think that's a reaction to what women have done, but also to what good men have done, to fight for these rights. It's why we've had them for more than 40 years.

PLAYBOY: Looking ahead, is there anything you want to do with a little more free time?

RICHARDS: I don't picture myself ever just sitting around. I've been trying to learn Italian. I've been going to sailing classes way up in Maine; I love doing that. There are things I'd love to master as a cook. I've been trying to make a perfect Cacio e Pepe pasta and still have not quite gotten it. I may have to go to Rome for a week to get that done. I've always wanted to go to the Isle of Skye, which I'm doing this fall just for fun with a friend.

PLAYBOY: And what's your hope for the future of women's rights? Will it always be a fight for reproductive freedom?

RICHARDS: If we're doing the right thing, yeah. If we believe in progress and in taking away barriers, there's always going to be a next fight. As I try to tell people who are discouraged about what's happening right now in this administration, you have to take the long view sometimes. One hundred years ago women couldn't vote, birth control was illegal, women didn't have equal rights. And now women represent half the workforce, they're half the student population, they're taking over government. They're doing things that were unthinkable even 25 years ago. We got birth control covered for every woman, and we've held our ground on abortion rights. Those are big advances. Life is so much better now for women than it ever was before. But we can never stop fighting. If we're a movement, we have to constantly be moving. ■

Trespassing, larceny and crime-scene sex — romance is alive and thriving

UNLAWFUL ENTRY

BY CHUCK PALAHNIUK

Photography by **DIEGOPATINO**

Back in the world you still know… back in Before Times, here's how Walter Baines had always dreamed of doing it.

On Shasta's 25th birthday he'd suggest taking a bus, the bus going uphill, the one that most days carries her mom and the other house cleaners to work. He'd wear his lucky Lamborghini scarf even if it's so old it's turning back into dirty wool.

The two of them would catch the last bus of the night, following the route past that house. Not the house Mrs Shasta cleans but the one with Scarlett O'Hara columns lining the front porch and the rooflines and lightning rods and red-brick chimneys rising above the ancestral oak trees. It's the house Shasta has always gawked at the way a dog eyeballs a squirrel, like that pile of bricks and ivy is her pornography. One stop past the house in question Walter would step off the bus and walk back to where the windows would be dark. When she pulled away, he'd get her, tight, around one wrist and tug, gently, saying, "It's a surprise," leading her past a statue that creeps him out.

It's a monkey made out of that metal where if you touched it on a cold day you'd be touching it forever, and anyone who touched you would stick, as would people who touched them until everyone in the world would be trapped together like ice-nine in Vonnegut. The little statue brings to mind a little monkey dressed as a clown, maybe to ride a horse only with his face painted white. Like in Japan.

Walter would cross the damp grass, beyond the Kabuki-faced monkey-clown statuette, past the little yellow sign for the alarm company.

To mark the occasion, Walter would pull out his lucky pipe and tamp the bowl full of Hindu Kush. Ever the gentleman, he'd offer Shasta the first hit.

He'd pat his hip pocket to double check for a bulge, a round bulge like old-school Kennedy half dollars, like pirate doubloons or chocolate gelt — in reality only gold-foil-wrapped condoms his ma distributes wholesale. His fingertips would trace the outline of something else;>>



coiled, a larger circle, a loop of something tucked deep in his back pocket.

Walter would lead her, shivering, onto the porch, where and when she'd hide behind a column, standing sideways-skinny in the shadows, blocked from the street. She'd be trusting him but be ready to run. Then and there, he'd say, "Let me go get your birthday present," and he'd disappear around the side of the house.

She'll cower there, hearing crickets chirp and the hiss of in-ground sprinklers. Smelling this and that. The night-time air carries swimming pool chlorine and the vanilla fabric softener of billowing steam from some dryer vent. A private security patrol will cruise by playing its searchlight over the hedges. Since her finger-painting days, this house has stood here, filled with history, never changing, a place where she could never imagine feeling afraid. Here and now she's hugging herself behind a column, looking on her phone for a taxi, surfing the Neighbourhood Watch sites to see if anyone's reported two prowlers.

The front door creaks open. As if by itself, the panelled, white-painted door will swing aside on its brass hinges. Nightmare slow. Before she can bolt down the steps, comes a whisper from the darkness inside the front hallway, Walter's voice whispering, "Happy birthday, Shasta."

Walter will edge his head out until the porch light puts a white mask on his face, wave a hand for her to come inside. He'll whisper, "It's okay."

She'll stand there between the fear she feels and what she wants most: the end of all fear.

He'll say, "Hurry."

She'll give the empty, dark street one last look and step inside. He'll shut the door. The two of them will kiss until her eyes adjust so she can look around in the half-light. Take note of the brass chandelier holding a forest of fake candles above their heads. Check out the stairway curving down, out of the darkness. The carved, leather-scented wood of everything. From somewhere, Walter will hear a clock ticking, loud against the silence. Little smears of light will bounce off a swinging, polished silver pendulum. Flicker in shades of blue off the mirror above a fireplace.

The thing about Shasta is the taste of her mouth. In his experience a girl can be beautiful with all the tits in the world, long legs and a button nose, but a bad-tasting mouth makes her only as good as porn. Shasta, the inside of her mouth reminds him of high-fructose corn syrup, like soaking maraschino cherries stewed with Red No. 5 and gelatin until her tongue has the mouth-feel of a Hostess fruit pie flaking sugar like a baby snake shedding its sweet, dead, sweet skin. Until every French kiss is him deep-throating a semi-molten, sugar-coated snake, like a little garter snake or a garden-variety brown boa. Like Walter's mouth is locked overnight in a delicious combination reptile house and Danish pastry shop.

She'll whisper about the alarm system, and he'll point upward. Her gaze will follow his arm to a camera mounted high on one wall. When and where he'll give her a silent thumbs-up, a-okay. He'll explain that he hacked the system. Before they even boarded the bus, Walter deactivated everything, remotely. He found a window unlocked in the back. He'd been planning this for weeks. No one will ever know they were here.

As irrefutable evidence that he's more than a slack-jawed, single-digit brain-cell burner, he'll explain about network enumeration and exploitation. Walter will boast about his genius cryptographic keys while leading her toward the stairs.

Shasta will be heel dragging, whispering about homeowners with shotguns. About stand-your-ground laws.

If anyone catches them, Walter will promise to lie. He'll swear that he lured her here to strangle her. He's a serial killer. He's got victims buried in shallow graves all over the American West. He'll pretend to a jury that he'd told her this was his house. He'd planned to eat Froot Loops out of the bowl he'd make from her skull. Using her blood, he'd write HELTER SKELTER on the glass door of the Sub-

SEX IS SEX, BUT SEX PLUS DANGER IS GREAT.

-Zero wine cooler. As an almost-butchered woman, she'll get off scot-free.

Walter will say that he's already snooped around. No one's home. He'll reach into his back pocket and show her the coil of thin wire. It's ready for when the police frisk him: a garrote, for strangling her, with a small wooden peg attached to either end so he can pull it tight. It's her get-out-of-jail-free card. Seeing condoms and a murder weapon will be all the insurance policy she'll need. She can relax.

Sex is sex, but sex plus danger is great. The looming threat of being serial-killed or getting jail time will bring down her juice faster than green M&M's. The both of them a tangled knot, he'll go at it until they're half dead. They'll christen every room. If there's a safe, behind a painting or a secret panel in the wall, Walter will find it. He'll press his ear near the dial and listen to the tumblers spin. Before she says not to, he'll throw the handle and open the heavy door, taking only enough cash for two first-class one-way tickets to Denver.

In Denver, he'll take her on another bus ride to where big houses sit far apart. He'll show her on his phone how he reverse-engineered the security-monitoring software, how easy, and she'll follow him around the sides of a house until they find a window unlatched.

Before here and now, she's only known him as some baked chode. A hammered nobody who can only afford ditch weed shake full of seeds and stems. He lives in his ma's basement, where the plumbing growls like a stomach, like the sound of an impending bad smell. Shasta likes him okay, but not so much that she'd marry him.

By Denver, she's bought into his secret Robin Hood bad-boy side. The way he can open doors — abracadabra — and human-traffic the two of them into rich, forbidden worlds. After they make love on a bearskin rug and throw the goopy condom into a roaring fire in a stone fireplace under a crystal chandelier, after they drink stolen wine and she washes the glasses and puts everything back, then he'll locate another safe. This one, hidden under the false bottom of a seemingly empty bathroom cabinet, he'll have it open in a flash and withdraw just the money they need to fly to Chicago.

That bad-boy Walter will completely win her over. Chicago will be a repeat of Denver. Minneapolis will take them to Seattle. As a sign of her newfound awe and respect, she starts referring to his junk as the Penis de Milo. In Minneapolis she slips up and calls him "daddy." Seattle leads to San Francisco, where they'll sneak past the doorman at some art deco skyscraper that they'll just happen to be passing one night. He'll hack the elevator code and ride to the penthouse. Using his phone, he'll show her the view from every security camera to prove nobody's home. While Shasta stands lookout near the elevator, he'll trip the locks, then hurry her inside. He'll remind her of the backup scenario. Him: serial killer. Her: victim. The two of them, outlaws. The next day they'll be strolling along a dock in Sausalito where he'll target a yacht. They'll take it out into the bay, not sailing, he's not that much of a show-off. He'll use the motor and spend a sunny day on the water. On the deck, catching some rays, she'll say, "Show me, again." Then and there he'll pull the coiled wire out of his pocket and demonstrate how easily it fits around her neck. Just to give her peace of mind.

A locker will yield an array of bikinis all in perfect Size Shasta. He's neither a tit man nor a leg man so she's his physical ideal, stretched out on a deck chair, sucking down Durban Poison until her skin burns the colour of deep-dish chilli-cheese Pepperoni Stix. That same evening, he'll moor the yacht and look for a new safe, this one hidden by a spice rack camouflaged behind a panel in the galley. The money he finds will get them both down to San Diego.

Still they're trespassers in paradise. She might be having a ball, touring the glamorous life with Mr Douche Danger. But she'll never marry him, and he knows that.

As long as her vacation time holds out, they'll hop from San Diego to New Orleans to Miami. In a waterfront villa, they'll be making love. In a canopy bed beside big windows that look out on the ocean under a full moon. Not a minute after they've taken each other to heaven and back, the bedroom doors will burst open. Uniformed men train their side arms on Shasta. The lights blaze bright, and she screams, clutching damp sheets over her naked body. Not like Walter practised, not exactly, she screams, "He's a serial killer," meaning him. She screams, "He told me he lived here." So much for her acting skills. She says, "He planned to strangulate me!"

A voice among the uniforms yells, "Police!" Commands, "Put your hands where we can see them!"

This is how it ends, their cross-country crime spree. Bonnie and Clyde without the body count. With the spit still wet on each other, he'll climb out of bed and find his pants. He'll show the police his driver's license. Keeping his hands in the air, his pecker still stuck out so hard it shines, still waving the filled condom like a little white flag, he'll cross the room to an elegant antique French desk.

She'll still be in bed, openly weeping, saying, "Thank God, thank you! He calls this love, but he plans to destroy me!"

The police won't allow Walter to actually open the desk drawer so he'll direct an officer to do so. Revealed within, lying on top in plain sight, will be a deed of property ownership. On it, notarised and duly recorded in all public records will be the same name as on the driver's licence. His name. Where and when, in the elegant intonations of a landed aristocrat, he'll explain, smiling, naked, "Officers, I own this house."

In the bed, the weeping will stop. Shasta's voice will ask, "Huh?" The two of them had been drinking red wine, and the edge of her glass will have left a thin, red Salvador Dali moustache curving up from the corners of her mouth.

He'll explain. He owned everything. In Denver, in Seattle, every house is his. He knew the codes, the combinations to the safes. The cash he took was his own. He left the windows unlocked and tipped doormen to look the other way. Even the yacht and the bikinis. Secretly, Walter dialled 9-1-1 to bring the cops at this, the perfect moment.

Blithely, he'll pull off the condom and cast it aside. Not only is he a brash bad-boy douche bag with the stealth and cunning to skate through life and show a girl a good time, he's also rich. He'll be the same old Walter she liked before, only loaded. The regular him, but with so much more to love.

With the police officers looking on, their guns lowered, him still naked, her naked, he'll kneel on the floor near his pants. He'll reach into the pocket where the garrote is hidden and bring out a ring. He'll ask, "Will you marry me?"

A big diamond ring.

There and then, a crew of caterers will arrive with chocolate-dipped strawberries and Mountain Dew–flavoured Doritos with garlic popcorn and extra ranch dressing on the side. He'll fire up a big, juicy party bowl packed with New Purple Power, and even the cops will greedily partake. For the honeymoon him and Shasta will live happily ever after on a tropical isle he owns, reforested with fields of White Rhino. Either there or maybe under a geodesic dome terrarium sunk on the bottom of the ocean with self-contained, recycling everything, surrounded by an ever-changing galaxy of colourful tropical sea life.

Whatever the case, this is how he'll propose.

Excerpted from Adjustment Day, from W.W. Norton.

Lizzie Lee

Photography by **PY PAI** *Text by* **NELLY MADUNA** *Shoot location* **PY25 STUDIO, DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES**
Lashe by **@OFFICIALBOSSLASHCLUB** *Tan by* **@SUNLABORATORIES**

Lizzie Lee is an internationally published model based in California. She has been featured on HBO and Showtime shows as well as published in this year's 2018 Harley Davidson Dream girls calendar and more than 20 other internationally known publications within the last 2 years. Her happy place is in front of the camera, but when she isn't shooting for print, she is busy hosting charity events, cooking, traveling, and enjoying the great outdoors by riding her bike or hiking.

Tell us something surprising about you
My mom was born in France so I have dual citizenship and am fluent in French.

Were you excited to shoot for Playboy?
Of course! It has been my dream and the ultimate, biggest goal of my modelling career for as long as I can remember!

What inspires you?
I am inspired by all forms of art, nature, and artists who aren't afraid to express themselves, even if it breaks the mold.

What are some of your hobbies?
I love riding my bike, hiking, working out, and cooking.

What is your biggest turn on?
I love a man who is a true gentleman and has a beard :)

What turns you off the most?
I can't stand men who are cocky and/or disrespectful.

Describe to us your perfect date
A perfect date would include being picked up, surprised with flowers, the door opened for me, and a nice steak dinner with good conversation.

What would you consider to be your biggest challenge as a model so far?
Staying humble and maintaining appearance/self-confidence, all while dealing with an extremely high level of competition.

What is your favourite word in any language and what does it mean?
Since I speak French, one of my favourite words is "pomme de terre" it means potato but literally, it means apple of the earth and I think that's just so cute and fitting for the vegetable!

Follow Lizzie's adventures on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook @lizzieleemodel















PLAYBOY'S PARTY JOKES

Remember when Heather Locklear was charged with beating up a cop? Apparently news stories in 2018 are based on Mad Libs.

Seen recently on a man's dating-site profile: "Meeting me is like the first time you ate sushi or wore a thong. It seems weird initially, but you learn to love it."

Impressive: Rex Tillerson was secretary of state for 39.5 Scaramuccis.

You know, I'm tired of having to make multiple stops when I need tires, a diamond bracelet and 20 gallons of mayonnaise," said the man who would go on to found Costco.

Seen on another dating profile: "I make a six-figure salary. Full disclosure: Two of those figures are to the right of the decimal point."

GIRLFRIEND: I've got good news, and I've got bad news. Which one do you want to hear first?
BOYFRIEND: Uh, the good news.
GIRLFRIEND: I got you a new coffee mug.
BOYFRIEND: Thanks! And the bad news?
GIRLFRIEND: It's a WORLD'S GREATEST DAD mug.

A guy said to his girlfriend, " In the spirit of the upcoming Kentucky Derby, I should tell you I've always wanted to use a riding crop in the bedroom."

"Well," she replied, "in the spirit of the Derby I should tell *you* I've been riding another stud."

Guys have all the swag in the world until they have to read anything out loud.



Seen on yet another guy's profile, in answer to the question "How do women perceive you?":

"I confess, women in the past have rejected me, much as the human body rejects a baboon heart, post-surgery — just a visceral, immediate, total rejection at any cost to the host organism."

A dentist is attending to a longtime and panic-prone patient.
DENTIST: Now, Mr Cline, this is going to hurt a little.
PATIENT: I can't do it, doc! Give me more novocaine!
DENTIST: What? No, not the procedure. I was going to tell you I've been sleeping with your wife.

I'll never forget my dear uncle's last words. "I am your father," he said. What a guy — still doing *Star Wars* impressions right to the end.

A young man writes home from his year abroad in Russia. "Mom and Dad, I've started dating someone. You'll love her. She's a real doll — a painted wooden nesting doll, in fact. She's number two in a group of eight, so she's one of your bigger gals, which I find I like. At first she seemed really empty inside, but once I got her to open up, she was full of personalities."

Two bros were hanging out on a Sunday in June.

"I have this ex-girlfriend who texts me 'Happy Father's Day!' every year," said the first.

"Shit, dog," said his friend.

"I know! It's crazy that she has the time to be so funny — and a single mom!"

A woman asked her husband what he was planning for their 20th anniversary.

"I'm taking you to Europe," he said.

"Oh, darling, that's wonderful," she said. "And what are you planning to do for our 40th?"

"Pick you back up."

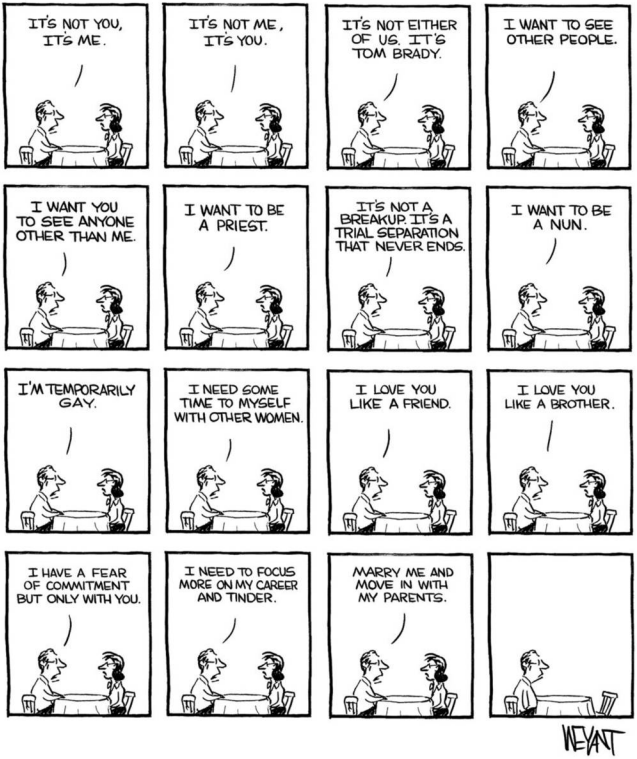
Turning to another married couple: A husband asked his wife what she wanted for Mother's Day.

"An extended stay at Motel 6," she replied.

"You deserve a nicer hotel than that," he told her.

"It's not for me."

15 WAYS TO BREAK UP



We Demand a Recount

The spectre of Russian hacking is blinding the US to a homegrown threat to their democracy: a refusal to verify election results.

By **STEVE FRIESS**

America is a nation that refuses to double-check. To do so in the aftermath of an election is often seen as an assault on that election's integrity, an insult to the fine, hardworking bureaucrats who orchestrate the voting process and an unpatriotic gambit attempted only by sore losers. It is also a key reason American democracy is so vulnerable to attack.

With the mid-terms drawing ever nearer, the mounting evidence of Russia's social-media influence campaign in 2016 is focusing attention on election integrity. But after that historic showdown, efforts to recount three states that went surprisingly and narrowly for Donald Trump were stymied by legal challenges and subjected to mockery from both sides of the aisle. Since then, several state legislatures have made it even more difficult to double-check election results despite 2016's foreign meddling and cyber attacks. By now, virtually all saboteurs of democracy know the US is too fussy, impatient and fragile to allow for a secondary process to rule out interference or error.

"People say we shouldn't do anything that could decrease public trust in our elections," says Philip Stark, associate dean of mathematical and physical sciences at the University of California, Berkeley and an appointed member of the board of advisors of the US Election Assistance Commission. "That's putting trust before trustworthiness instead of trustworthiness before trust. What we really ought to have is a demonstrably *trustworthy* process."

Stark has long beat the drum about one such process: the risk-limiting audit, or RLA. Its beauty, as described in a landmark 2012 white paper he co-wrote, is that it requires a count of a relatively small number of randomly chosen ballots to provide a high statistical certainty that the overall tally is accurate. When margins are large, the number of hand-counted ballots in an RLA can be tiny: In Missouri, where Trump beat Hillary Clinton by 19 points, a 95 percent probability that the results are correct can be reached by looking at just 10 randomly chosen paper ballots. In Michigan, where the 2016 margin was 0.3 percentage points, a look at 517 000 of the 4.7 million votes cast could do it. If the outcome from the RLA mirrors what the machines counted on election night, the audit ends. If it doesn't, auditors count more randomly chosen ballots until statistical certainty is achieved. The process leads to a full manual recount only if there continue to be reasons to suspect the original tally is wrong.

"If you want to know if a pot of soup is too salty, you stir the pot and taste a tablespoon," Stark explains. "It doesn't matter if it is a onequart pot or a 50-gallon cauldron; a tablespoon is enough, provided you stir the pot really well. That is



exactly what random sampling does."

RLAs are far easier, faster and cheaper than the only tool now available by law in most states: a manual recount of every ballot, demanded, and sometimes paid for, by a losing candidate. National-security and election integrity experts argue that making RLAs common practice would reduce the odds of attackers successfully manipulating the results via electronic means. "You cannot make a system invulnerable to cybersecurity attacks, and cybersecurity is only one cause of inaccurate election outcomes," Stark says. But with RLAs, "it really doesn't matter whether the computers were programmed incorrectly or if they were hacked or if voters didn't follow instructions or whatever. If you've got the paper, you can check the results."

Sceptics insist on evidence of problems to justify post-election scrutiny, but in most situations the only way to find evidence of problems is to conduct an audit. "The paper ballot is the safeguard in this system," says University of Michigan computer science professor J. Alex Halderman, who led the 2016 recount effort, "but only if we look at it."

Recount resistance is a bipartisan problem. In 2016, North Carolina was not among the states targeted by the recount effort despite Trump's narrow, poll-defying victory and credible concerns of aberrant results in some key counties. Democrats in the Tar Heel State opposed a full statewide recount for fear it could upend the outcome of the governor's race in which Democrat Roy Cooper unseated incumbent Governor Pat McCrory, a Republican, by 0.2 percentage points. "If you've been elected by the current system of counting votes," Stark says, "there's a tendency to believe it worked just fine."

Still, RLAs have a shot. With much fanfare, Colorado began double-checking outcomes of statewide races in 2017 (and found no errant results). Rhode Island will start RLA testing as soon as this year, and California conducted small-scale RLA experiments in 2011 and 2012, funded by the federal commission that Stark sits on. Officials in Virginia and the District of Columbia have asked Stark about adopting the system, he says.

Meanwhile, many Americans struggle to understand the difference between Russia's social-media influence campaign and actual computer hacking, so Stark and others hope to wake up the public to the dangers of shirking recounts. "There's a sense in which the chaos around the 2016 election has been a godsend for election integrity," Stark says. "All of a sudden a bunch of people care about the issue." Indeed, the attacks might even lead Americans to apply to their own system a Soviet proverb often cited at the height of the Cold War: Doveryai, no proveryai. Trust, but verify. ■

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